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A Swedish rescue worker prepares to recover bodies found in a life raft from the sunken ferry 'Estonia' yesterday.

(Reuters)

838 feared dead as Stockholm-bound ferry sinks

TURKU, Finland—Rescue workers battled storm winds and high seas yesterday in a probably futile attempt to locate more survivors of a ferry disaster believed to have killed 838 people.

A crew member of the ferry, the *Estonia*, said that in the midst of the Baltic Sea, water started pouring through the front cargo door. The ferry sank quickly.

Swedish safety trainers had criticized the seals on the door before the ferry left Tallinn, Estonia, on Tuesday night, on its way to Stockholm, Sweden.

Throughout the day, 12 rescue helicopters criss-crossed the site off the southwestern Finnish coast, though the chances of finding any more than 141 known survivors were almost non-existent.

Shortly after learning of the ferry disaster, President Ezer Weizman sent condolences to the king of Sweden and the presidents of Finland and Estonia.

Weizman wrote that the people of Israel were shocked and grieved to hear of the sad loss of life and sent condolences to each of the three nations and to the bereaved families.

People plucked from the icy waters of the Baltic spoke of disbelief, sorrow and a burning desire to survive when the ferry sank without warning.

"There was no time to think. I just ran,

ran, ran," said deck hand Silver Linde.

"I just don't understand it. It was a very good ship, a beautiful liner," he said at Turku's modern University Hospital, where he was taken as one of the *Estonia*'s survivors.

Finnish officials said they had recovered 42 bodies by late afternoon and 796 people were still missing, making this one of Europe's worst maritime disasters.

The survivors, many of them Estonian crew, talked on the telephone to relatives or discussed in hushed voices the terrible ordeal of spending up to six hours in waters only a few degrees above freezing.

Rescue officials broke off the huge air and sea search for more survivors yesterday evening as darkness fell, and planned to resume this morning.

As *Estonia*, Sweden and Finland ordered a full investigation into the disaster, Swedish maritime safety officials said a seal which made the loading ramp watertight was found to be "unsatisfactory" during an inspection a day before the disaster.

"They had opinions on the ramp, namely that the seal was not in satisfactory condition," seamen's union leader Anders Lindstrom told the Swedish news agency TT.

News agencies

Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho said yesterday: "The rescue is continuing but the possibility of finding people who are still alive has been lost."

Swedish helicopter pilots described their frustration at not finding more survivors.

"We saw about 40 life rafts," said pilot Stefan Carneros. "Unfortunately, most of them were empty."

Stormy seas and winds topping 90 kph were hindering rescue operations near the site of the disaster, about 37 km from the Finnish island of Uto.

The *Estonia* started sinking about 12:30 a.m. yesterday and sent out a distress signal. Some news reports said the ship went down in five minutes, while others put the time at closer to 30 minutes.

Nearby passenger ferries, including the *Mariella* and the *Symphony*, took some of the survivors aboard.

The passengers included at least 552 Swedes and 163 Estonians, the Estonian embassy in Sweden said. Other passengers were from Latvia, Lithuania, Canada, Russia, Nigeria, Finland, Norway, Britain, and Belarus.

The *Estonia* was built in 1980 in Germany, and had room for 2,000 passengers and 460 cars. It was operated by a Swedish-

Estonian joint venture.

Estonian police investigating the sinking said yesterday that if human error were to blame those responsible could be jailed for up to 10 years. Russia's Itar-Tass news agency reported.

"Those responsible for sinking the ship and the deaths of people may be charged under the Estonian criminal code with violations of sea traffic safety rules resulting in heavy casualties," it said.

In London, shipping experts said roll-on roll-off (RoRo) ferries have a far better safety record than headline-grabbing tragedies suggest.

"Disasters such as this are like being on a plane and all four engines failing at once," Andrew Linington of the British ship officers' union NUMAST said to illustrate that such incidents were extremely rare.

RoRo ferries like the *Estonia*, let vehicles drive straight on to vast, flat car decks above the water line, and straight off when they arrive in port.

Yesterday's accident may be the world's worst RoRo disaster.

It eclipses the capsizing of the Herald of Free Enterprise in 1987 in the English Channel off Zeebrugge, Belgium, in which 193 people died. The Herald's car deck ramp had been left open due to crew errors.

Despite infection threat, medical team to Rwanda returned home AIDS free

JUDY SIEGEL

NEARLY 40 percent of the Rwandan refugees treated by an Israeli medical team at the Zairian border were HIV carriers, and several team members accidentally pricked themselves with needles. None of them, however, was infected with the disease or needed the drug AZT, which slows the spread of HIV in the body.

This was reported by Dr. Shlomo Ma'ayan, head of the AIDS clinic at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, who spent two weeks at the refugee camp in August.

Ma'ayan yesterday told *The Jerusalem Post* the team had expected a high HIV carrier rate; nevertheless, the 39 percent rate they found was very disappointing. Of 1,300 patients who were treated by the Israeli team, a few hundred needed blood transfusions; blood samples from 150 of them were taken for testing here.

"According to our preliminary results, based on the ELISA test, 39 percent of the patients—mostly adult men and women—were HIV carriers; none of them knew it. We will confirm these results in two weeks by performing the Western Blot test on the samples; however, we do not expect the

results to be much different," Ma'ayan said.

The staff had been carefully prepared on how to avoid HIV infection. Special devices for the storage of used needles were provided, and there was a plentiful supply of protective gloves. But a "handful" of staffers accidentally pricked themselves. When this occurred, Ma'ayan said, the patient who was the source of the blood on the syringe was tested immediately. In each of these accidents, the source of the blood, fortunately, was not an HIV carrier. In any case, according to epidemiological studies, the risk of a medical staffer contracting HIV from a needle prick is around 0.4 percent.

AIDS is transmitted by adults in Africa almost exclusively by sexual contact, said Ma'ayan. Unfortunately, although Africans are aware of the dreadful toll of the disease, they are almost completely oblivious to the means and urgency of preventing its spread. "What is really needed is an educational program in the camps on how to avoid HIV transmission by sexual contact," said Ma'ayan.

Although 96 percent of the 1,300 patients treated by the Israelis survived, the staff were aware that some of them face death from AIDS. Only now that the ELISA test results are available is Ma'ayan certain that nearly two in five will die from AIDS—unless the elusive cure is discovered. "It can take years before the actual disease appears; perhaps a treatment will be available before then," he said.

Peres comes looking for dollars and Syrian peace in New York

SUE FISHKOFF
 NEW YORK

WILL Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meet face to face with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara this week in New York? Or has the meeting already taken place?

Israeli and Syrian officials here won't say; Syria's UN Mission won't even release Shara's meeting schedule, telling reporters it is "not ready yet," although he's been in New York since Tuesday.

Meanwhile Peres, at least, proclaims as often as he's asked that he would welcome such a meeting, just as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would welcome a private talk with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Calling such face-to-face contact "a must," Peres reiterated the government's position Tuesday night in a live TV interview with talk show host Charlie Rose, saying "We won't arrive at a peace agreement until we meet at this political level."

Peres told Rose, however, that he doubted such a meeting would take place during this visit, saying, "I may be in the same room with him, if you call that a meeting, but I don't expect any [formal] meeting."

Peres told Rose that Israel was "prepared to give back territory" if Assad offered a peace treaty, "but we won't say how much, that's not how you begin negotiations."

Saying that he understood the concerns of Golan residents, he added, "We have to be ready to give up the Golan or give up peace. The mountains of the Golan Heights are high, and very important, but the hopes for peace are even higher, if not as solid."

Peres also confirmed during the interview that he will meet Monday with President Clinton and Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan, in order to move beyond the framework for peace agreed upon last September. "Now we can agree on the program [for peace]," he said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who met privately with Peres yesterday morning, told reporters afterwards that while direct contact between the top leadership of Israel and Syria is

"not impossible," he doubted that it would take place now.

"It needs concrete progress [in the bilateral negotiations] for such a meeting to materialize," he said.

During their half-hour meeting, Moussa raised the issue of Israel joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Egypt recently launched an initiative at the UN to get all nations of the Middle East to join.

Peres repeated the government's position that as long as countries such as Iraq and Iran, both of whom signed the NPT, continue openly declaring war on Israel, Israel will continue to rely on the fear of its possible nuclear arsenal "as a deterrent."

The government bases its vision of a nuclear-free Middle East on the conclusion of bilateral peace agreements with all its neighbors, rather than international treaties, Peres explained.

Moussa said that Peres's fears of Iranian hostility towards Israel were "exaggerated," to which Peres replied sharply, "No, it's quite serious."

Peres continues to meet this week in New York with more than two dozen foreign ministers and heads of state, concentrating on Europe, the Far East and Israel's closest neighbors. He has been focusing on economic issues, specifically cementing pledges of financial aid to Palestinian projects, discussing participation in next month's Casablanca conference on regional economic issues, and urging support for the creation of a Middle East development bank.

After his meeting with Moussa, Peres met yesterday with the foreign ministers of Finland, Austria and Japan, and with the president of Costa Rica.

Today at noon (6 p.m. Israel time) he will address the UN General Assembly. In the late afternoon, he will inaugurate the opening of an exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, of 15 Chalcolithic period objects on long-term loan from the Israel Antiquities Authority. The exhibit, which opens September 30, is the first long-term loan by the IAA to any museum.

Rabin: I'll halt peace talks if Golan bill passes

SARAH HONG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday threatened to pull out of peace negotiations with Syria if legislation requiring special parliamentary and referendum majorities for a Golan withdrawal passes the Knesset.

He told members of the Labor Knesset faction he might make the vote on his foreign policy statement to the Knesset on Monday a confidence vote, preferring that his government "fall due to no-confidence, rather than suffer the consequences of legislation" mandating special majorities for withdrawal.

Should such legislation pass, Rabin said, he would be obliged to inform the Americans and Syrians that he is pulling out of the negotiations. This was seen as a move to pressure MK Avigdor Kahalani and his handful of allies, who are pressing ahead with such legislation.

Rabin nevertheless stressed to the faction members that "peace with Syria will not be at any cost." He claimed he had turned down a Syrian demand to declare readiness to withdraw from the entire Golan, and insisted that he is still determined to insure that withdrawal will stretch over five years, despite Syrian demands that the process be completed before the scheduled 1996 general election.

This, Rabin stressed, is "in contrast to all the reports you hear. Despite all that is being written, there are still wide gaps between us and the Syrians. I don't want to say that the Syrians do not want peace, but the problem is Syria's conditions. Peace with Syria will not come at any cost."

"As things stand, I am not in position to say when or if there will be an agreement with Syria. There is no agreement now, even on any of the components of a deal, such as where the border will be, how long the withdrawal process would take, the nature of normalization of relations, and when this would go into effect, as well as the nature of security arrange-

ments," Rabin said.

Rabin, who met with the faction members to sum up a protracted series of deliberations on the Golan, was replying to an appeal from MK Ra'anan Cohen, who warned him emotionally that "Labor is losing the public opinion war. The people are not with us on the Golan issue. Get out of your bunker and mingle with the people. The street is with the right. Go and talk to the people."

MK Dalia Itzik told Rabin that his ministers "are busy giving the impression that the government is ready to relinquish everything on the Golan. I wouldn't let them shop for me at the supermarket."

As things stand, Rabin told his critics, "there is nothing to go to the nation with. I cannot hold a referendum now, and will not do so until an agreement with Syria has been finalized."

But he continued to warn his listeners of "what will happen if no agreement is reached. In such an eventuality, the Syrians would send massive arms supplies into Lebanon. One cannot predict when such an opportunity for peace will ever come again."

The faction again refrained from imposing party discipline on the dissenting MKs for fear of angering them. Moreover, it is not considered possible to prevent them from submitting their bills. The tactic now, *The Jerusalem Post* was told, will be to bury the bills in committee.

Rabin is to meet today with Kahalani and his six supporters in a last-ditch effort to talk them out of their legislative initiative.

He also pressed the faction members not to further stymie Shas's return to the coalition. Rabin plans to ask the party central committee to ratify his agreement to legislation Shas demanded, which would circumvent decisions by the High Court of Justice that Shas believes breach the status quo on religious affairs.

This is hotly opposed by Meretz, which has thus far kept Shas from returning to the coalition. Shas is threatening to vote with the opposition if Rabin does not bring Meretz into line by Tuesday.

Guidelines agreed for Clalit recovery plan

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE government, Histadrut, and Kupat Holim Clalit late last night agreed on guidelines for a recovery plan of the Clalit health fund and the settling of its public debt. The meeting was attended by the finance and health ministers, the chairman and treasurer of the Histadrut, the chairman of Clalit, and other officials.

They agreed that Clalit's recognized deficit for 1994 would be NIS 1.103 billion.

The government's share of financing this deficit would be NIS 900 million, of which NIS 520m. have already been transferred. The government has agreed to transfer NIS 280m. to Clalit from money the Histadrut owes it, plus another NIS 100m.

It was also agreed that Clalit would undertake efficiency measures to save NIS 245m. by 1996, NIS 125m. of which this year.

Rabin favors building in Alfei Menashe

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin favors freeing public land in the Alfei Menashe area, so an estimated 700 new housing units can be built, assuming this is legal and not a violation of the two-year-old settlement freeze, he told the cabinet yesterday.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni objected, saying this would violate the freeze and Israel has no right to expand existing settlements by freeing up public land.

"The prime minister said he told then President George Bush and President Bill Clinton that he could not stop people, who already have contracts, from engaging in some private building," Aloni told reporters afterward. "However, this is something different because we are talking about land that does not belong to Israel, she said."

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said that building housing in unspecified "seam" settlements near the Green Line should be considered.

"I think we should do it, but only minimally, in areas such as those around Jerusalem," Agriculture Minister Yaacov Tsur said. "I would not go much beyond that, except in areas around the 'seam.'"

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office said they do not foresee legal obstacles that would block the new housing in Alfei Menashe.

Sources said Rabin told the cabinet such construction would not violate the freeze pledge he made to Bush two years ago in return for \$10 billion in loan guarantees, since the issue at hand was private rather than government-subsidized construction.

"There are many seam settlements about which there will be discussion and argument with the Palestinian delegation," Ben-Eliezer told Israel Radio. "It is not sure there is a demand for housing in those settlements today, but the moment there is ... there is no reason to stop such a thing."



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700 join in fast with Golan hunger strikers

DAVID RUDGE

MORE than 700 people took part in a 24-hour fast at the Golan Heights protest tent site yesterday in solidarity with Golan activists who have been on hunger strike for nearly three weeks.

Organizers said the mass fast was aimed at putting further pressure on the government to return to its pre-election promises to maintain an Israeli presence on the Golan Heights even in the event of peace with Syria.

Residents of kibbutzim, moshavim, towns and villages in the Golan Heights, on the Golan itself and from other parts of the country took part in the demonstration as part of the campaign against any territorial concessions on the Golan.

"What the hunger strikers are doing is what any resident of the Upper Galilee should be doing and that's why I'm here taking part in this 24-hour hunger strike," said Avshalom Shamai, from Rosh Pina.

"Shulamit Aloni says peace with Syria is for the benefit of residents of the Galilee but those of us who live here in the Galilee know what sort of peace it will be.

"Borders change in every war and in the changes in this case meant that the Golan Heights fell into the hands of the Jews and that is where it has to remain to ensure peace and security in the future," said Shamai.

Miriam Shahak, from Har Radar near Jerusalem, said her husband Itzik had joined the Golan hunger strikers a week ago.

"Now the whole family is here giving support and I'm also fasting for the day. As far as the Golan is concerned, I don't even like the phrase 'giving it back' to the Syrians because it was never theirs in the first place. There weren't any civilians here. Apart from a few fishing villages near the Kinneret, the whole of the region before 1967 was just one huge military camp," she said.

"I believe that if we start dissect-

ing parts of Israel [including the Golan] and say this belongs and this doesn't we will eventually end up swimming in the sea. If we give something back after 27 years, there is no guarantee that we won't end up giving back Jaffa, Jerusalem and other places which used to be occupied by people who weren't Israelis."

Similar views were expressed by another protester at the site yesterday, Prof. Avraham Wachman of the Technion's Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning.

Wachman, who in 1976 submitted to the government his "double column" plan to strengthen Jewish settlement throughout the country, said it was important not to make the same mistakes as at Camp David.

"I believe that Israel is entitled to annex vital areas if they are not heavily populated and if they were captured in recurring defensive wars. I am also opposed to the dismantling of any settlements because this would in effect mean the dismantling of the Zionist enterprise," said Wachman.

The mass hunger-strike took place in an angry atmosphere among the protesters over remarks made by former OC Northern Command Avigdor "Yanush" Ben-Gal in an open letter to Ma'ariv yesterday.

Ben-Gal accused the Golan activists and the hunger strikers in particular of being "deaf, blind and insular." He charged that they were "morons" who did not have a clue about regional politics. He accused them of misleading the public and trying to rebel against the government, as well as being traitors to their movement, the Labor party.

Hunger striker Sami Bar-Lev, head of Katzin local council, hit back by accusing Ben-Gal of having lost his wits and "gone off the rails."

"This is the best proof that he is not right. He feels he is beginning to lose and so he has started to lash out in all directions," said Bar-Lev.

"We are fighting for our national home, not just our private homes. We are fighting for values and Zionism at its best. It's impudent to try and bring this down to a personal level."

Bar-Lev vowed that their democratic fight to save the Golan would continue and that the hunger strikers were determined to continue to the bitter end.

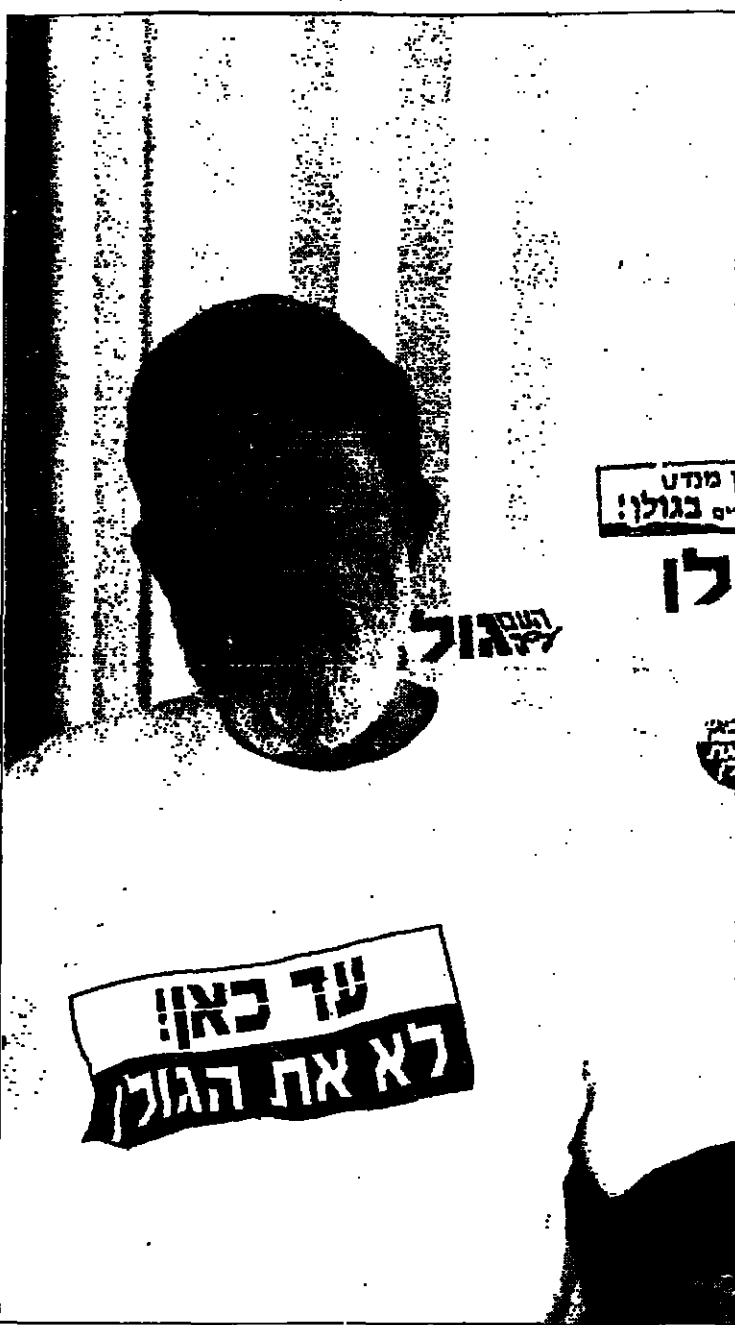
Hundreds of people, including MKs from several parties, again flocked to the protest tent site yesterday in an ongoing show of solidarity with the campaign to keep the Golan under Israeli rule.

MK Gonen Segov said his three-member Yit'ud Party would support the motion to strengthen the Golan Law so that any changes in the region's status would require a majority of 70 MKs in the Knesset and a 65 percent majority in the event of a referendum. He called for an immediate referendum, even over the question of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's proposed first-stage minimal withdrawal from the Golan.

Tsomet MK Moshe Peled told the Golan activists not to take any notice of the remarks made by Ben-Gal, saying the latter could not dictate to them from his "villa in Caesarea."

Likud MK David Levy, who also visited the site yesterday, called on Rabin to "come clean" and tell the Golan residents and the public the facts about the negotiations with Syria. Israel should make it clear to Syria that it was not prepared to hold negotiations as long as the Syrians continued to dictate the terms.

The hunger strikers themselves reiterated that they had no wish to meet Rabin at Golan unless he was prepared to publicly guarantee that Israel would not withdraw from the Golan.



David Spellman, of Kibbutz Gonen in the Hula Valley, sits outside United Kibbutz Movement headquarters in Tel Aviv on the 10th day of a hunger strike protesting government policy on the Golan Heights. Spellman, 51, chose to stage his hunger strike there because 'the UKM has eight settlements on the Heights. I want the UKM to take steps against government policy.'

(Text: Raine Marcus; Photo: Israel Sun)

Baram urges concessions in North for peace

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE same people who had the courage and wisdom to give up the Tiran Straits and Sharm e-Sheikh for the sake of peace should have "the same courage and wisdom to renounce important assets in the north of Israel, also for the sake of peace," Tourism Minister Uzi Baram said yesterday.

Baram was speaking at a dinner at Jerusalem's King David Hotel that he was hosting in honor of his Egyptian counterpart, Mamedouh Belaghi, who began a two-day visit here yesterday. Earlier, a planned meeting between Baram, Belaghi and the Jordanian

tourism minister did not take place yesterday because the Jordanian tourism minister refused to attend a gathering at the Allenby Bridge.

Baram said that his Jordanian counterpart, Mohammed Edwan, had informed him he could not meet with Baram at the Allenby Bridge because the site was still subject to negotiation with the Palestinian Authority. Edwan sent a message saying he would meet with Baram, even today, at the Akaba border crossing. Baram

said yesterday that he could not meet with Edwan today, but proposed a possible part between the three ministers tomorrow.

Belaghi told reporters that he was interested in formulating joint tourism projects with Israel, saying tourism and peace went hand in hand.

Baram told reporters at the bridge that he hopes to discuss joint marketing activities with Egypt. He said the Egyptians were particularly interested in selling packages to the two

countries in the US, where Egypt hopes to attract the American Jewish market.

Baram said that he was interested in promoting Moslem tourism to Egypt and Israel. He added that such tourists would not necessarily come from neighboring Arab countries, but from such countries as Pakistan and Indonesia.

Belaghi, who is accompanied by a number of leading Egyptian tourism entrepreneurs, yesterday visited the Coptic area of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Moslem shrines on

Netanyahu insists: Golan deal imminent

SARAH HONIG

LIKUD chairman Benjamin Netanyahu disputed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assertion last night that no agreement relating to the Golan had been reached with Syria.

Netanyahu told a briefing of foreign diplomats that he knows for a fact that the Israeli government had offered a two-stage withdrawal from the entire Golan.

Netanyahu said that the withdrawal is to start with the Druse villages on the Golan and one Israeli settlement. "It is unthinkable that the government would seek to make such a deal behind the backs of its own nation," Netanyahu said.

The only argument now, he said, "is about the timetable. Israel would like the process to last five years, whereas the Syrians want it to be over before Israel goes to its next general elections."

He called Rabin's argument that a peace treaty with Syria is the best security guarantee Israel can hope for, and that it is better than holding on to the Golan, "a false idea. I don't think the Kuwaitis, for example, found security in their peace with Iraq and peace did not prevent Iraq from gobbling up Kuwait when they thought they could get away with it."

The government's negotiating stance is "the silliest imaginable," Netanyahu said. "Israel is entering these negotiations with superior cards in its hands," especially after the fall of the USSR, Syria's greatest ally. Syria needs the peace to further its relations with the US, he said. "Under such circumstances to accede to all of Syria's demands is ridiculous."

Netanyahu expressed confidence that the next government will be a Likud government, one that will seek to further relations with Jordan.

Meanwhile the Likud is gearing up for elections, with party finance committee head MK Dan Tichon, predicting elections and the Golan referendum will take place in 1995, rather than as scheduled in November 1996.

Gaza fence ready by February

ALON PINKAS

THE IDF has already finished 23 km. of the 54 km. fence that is to surround the Gaza Strip, despite interference and theft of construction materials by Palestinians, said OC Logistics Branch Maj.-Gen. Shalom Hagai. Hagai was speaking to reporters as he inaugurated "Logistics Branch Week."

He said that equipment worth some NIS 500,000 has been stolen during construction, but said that despite this, the fence will be completed by February 1, and that around the Gush Katif settlements by May. The total

estimated cost of both fences is NIS 140 million.

Turning to the Golan Heights, Hagai said the "army is not taking any measures concerning the Golan. We are not curtailing plans or cutting investments, nor are we canceling any activities."

He added that IDF redeployment in Judea and Samaria will entail a massive investment in roads to enable settlers and the military to bypass Arab towns and villages from which the army will retreat.

Palestinian Police to return stolen cars

BILL HUTMAN

THE Palestinian Police and Israel Police have reached an agreement allowing for the return of 30 stolen cars held in Jericho to their Israeli owners.

An Israel Police spokesman announced last night that 17 of the stolen vehicles had already been turned over to the Israel Police.

Israel Police brass and insurance company officials complained recently that the Palestinian Police were not cooperating enough in the fight against car thefts.

The stolen vehicles were held for several weeks in Jericho.

Palestinian Police officials said they received no request for their return from the Israel Police, and they tried on their own to locate the owners.

The remaining stolen vehicles in Jericho are to be turned over to officials at the Israel Police station at Vered Yericho, just outside the autonomous area of Jericho.

Jordanian journalists refuse to meet with Israeli press

THE head of Jordan's journalists' association has turned down an offer to meet with his Israeli counterparts.

Salman Tawil, a journalist at Channel One, invited Salim Elkadada to meet with Israeli journalists in Haifa during a visit to Jordan last weekend with a delegation of Israeli Arabs. The delegation also met with King Hussein.

Tawil extended the invitation to Elkadada and other Jordanian journalists on behalf of the Haifa and northern branch of the National Federation of Israeli Journalists.

Elkadada, however, rejected the offer in a telephone conversation, saying that the Jordanian federation had decided to boycott Israeli journalists and to not hold any official meetings with them or conduct any professional cooperation.

Tawil said he tried to persuade Elkadada to meet with him and to relay the invitation to the rest of the Jordanian delegation. He even suggested that they meet on a personal level with him representing Israeli Arabs. However, Elkadada rejected these offers.

Tawil expressed shock at the response of the Jordanian journalists, saying that Israeli and Jordanian journalists had worked together in a friendly atmosphere during the recent rounds of bilateral talks.

Elkadada said, however, that those encounters were the result of joint coverage of events and were not formal meetings of journalists from Israel and Jordan. (Tm)

Katzrin residents take shelter as old Katyusha rocket defused

DOZENS of people were evacuated from their homes in a new housing development in Katzrin for over six hours yesterday, and others were instructed to stay indoors, as police and IDF sappers worked to neutralize an unexploded Katyusha rocket.

The rocket, dating back to the Yom Kippur War, was discovered on Monday. During construction work on private homes in the new section.

The main road outside Katzrin was closed to all but emergency traffic throughout the complex and delicate operation, which lasted from 11 a.m. to after 5 p.m.

Police said experts had finally managed to neutralize the Katyusha without having to blow it up, with the attendant risk to residents and property. It was later removed to a safe place.

Due to the danger, it was decided to wait until yesterday to tackle the task of defusing the device and making it safe to be moved out of the area.

Rajoub's bodyguards charged with kidnapping

BILL HUTMAN

THE three bodyguards of Palestinian security chief Yasser Rajoub were formally charged with kidnapping yesterday.

They allegedly took Palestinian TV head Samih Samara from his room at Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel on September 9 and moved him to Jericho for interrogation about his supposedly immoral activity.

The three, Anwar Awad, 22, Moustassem Gheneim, 22, and Salah Sabah, denied they were involved in the operation.

Their lawyer, Naela Atiah, said she would present a video-taped statement by Samara clearing her clients of any wrongdoing, at the opening of tomorrow's court proceedings.

"I'm not concerned with whether anyone else did in fact force him to go to Jericho. What I am going to prove is that my three clients were not in any way involved," Atiah said.

The case has spurred strong reaction from police brass, who vowed to halt the operations of Rajoub's agents in Jerusalem.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Freed Kach detainee asks to return home

Baruch Ben-Yosef yesterday asked the High Court of Justice to allow him to be under house arrest in Jerusalem, instead of being banished to Haifa for three months.

In addition to the hardships of being separated from his family, it is very difficult for him to find work for only three months, the petition said.

Clalit union head dies

Kupat Holim Clalit management yesterday expressed its sorrow over the death of Haim Baranes, chairman of the union of Clalit workers. He died after surgery at Sheba Hospital yesterday.

Baranes, 59, was married and the father of five. In 1981, he became head of the works committee in Kaplan Hospital and more recently represented all Clalit workers around the country, except for the doctors and nurses. He was a member of Clalit's executive council.

Irish defense minister meets with Beilin

Irish Defense Minister Noel Dempsey met with Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin in Jerusalem yesterday. The two men discussed the development of Irish-Israeli relations in various spheres - political, economic and cultural - and Ireland's participation in UN peacekeeping forces.

In the afternoon, Dempsey met with David Ivry, director-general of the Defense Ministry, and with IDF officers. Ambassador to Ireland Zvi Gabai participated in the meeting.

Rubinstein okays Holocaust studies school

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein has approved the opening of the Central School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The ministry will assist both the opening of the new school and its expansion, in the framework of the efforts being made to educate all Israeli students about the Holocaust, its consequences, and its lessons.

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev thanked ministry Director-General Dr. Shimon Shoshani for the assistance that the Education Ministry is providing and for its support of Yad Vashem's new policy. He announced that studies at the Holocaust Studies School will begin shortly and that 70,000 students will participate in the coming year.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, king of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

Five year old killed crossing street

BILL HUTMAN

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD boy was fatally injured by a passing car in Jerusalem yesterday, as he tried to cross the street to meet his father.

The father and driver of the vehicle took the boy, Tomer Asher Zelig, to Shaare Zedek Hospital, where he died.

The driver, a 29-year-old Jerusalemite, was held for questioning, then released. He is to re-enact the accident before police investigators today, to help determine if wrongdoing was involved.

Apparently the boy crossed the road where there was no crosswalk. He had just finished playing at a park in the Beit Hakerem neighborhood, when he ran across the road to his father, police said.

DA's death thought suicide

THE body of Southern Region District Attorney Ya'acov Kraushaar, 63, was found yesterday evening in the Jaffa Port area. Police think he killed himself.

On Tuesday, the woman Kraushaar was living with called police to report him missing after he failed to meet her as planned. He was known as a punctilious man, and his failure to appear caused immediate concern, especially as he had been depressed lately due to a serious illness.

A search was launched, and at 6 p.m. yesterday, a body matching Kraushaar's description was found. It was identified by family members.

(litim)

On the twentieth anniversary of the passing of the artist

REUVEN RUBIN

a memorial meeting will be held at the Old Cemetery, Rehov Trumpeldor, on Sunday, October 2, 1994 at 4 p.m.

His friends and those who wish to pay their respects to his memory will meet at the grave.

The Family

The Trustees and Staff of AVI CHAI - A Philanthropic Foundation extend heartfelt condolences to

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin and Family on the passing of his mother

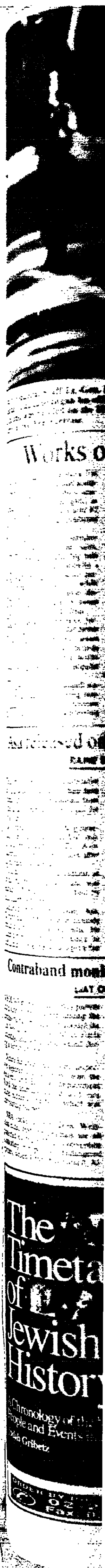
ROSE RISKIN

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

Center for Maritime Studies express heartfelt condolences to the family of the late

SIDNEY M. EDELSTEIN

long-time friend, member of the University's Board of Governors, and generous supporter of the Center.





Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak gestures as he makes a point to visiting French Chief of Staff Adm. Jacques Lanxade yesterday. Lanxade began his official visit with a ceremony at IDF headquarters in Tel Aviv. Lanxade also met Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and was briefed on the IDF, the security environment, and the peace process. Later in the week, he will visit the air force and observe a live fire exercise.

(Text: Alon Pinkas; Photo: Israel)

Works of Jewish artists rake in \$8.3 million

MEIR RONNEN

PRICES at this past weekend's Tel Aviv auctions of paintings and sculptures by 19th and 20th-century Jewish artists soared to new heights, as both Sotheby's and Christie's sold 82 percent of their lots for a combined take of \$8.3 million.

Buyers from America, Germany and England dominated the sales, with many of the successful big bids phoned in from abroad. Sotheby's crowded, badly-hung and ill-lit preview produced over \$5m, while Christie's beautifully presented display of its inaugural sale in Israel brought in a respectable \$3.28m.

Relatively speaking, the poor pictures by well-known artists did better than the good pictures by lesser lights. For example, new records were set for often indifferent works on paper by the perennially popular Chagall.

At Sotheby's, a lovely Chagall watercolor and gouache of a flying donkey bucking its rider, top estimate \$220,000, went for a whopping

\$541,500, while his high-color gouache, *Rabbi with a Tora against a Steel Background* brought an incredible \$492,000.

Also at Sotheby's, an oil by the late New Horizons painter Josef Zaritsky, *Amsterdam*, estimated at \$10,000-\$15,000, achieved a record \$68,500, paid by an Israeli bidder. A dramatic portrait of the German-Jewish cabinet minister *Walther Rathenau*, painted by Lesser Ury, brought \$35,000.

An indifferent minimalist work by Israel's Michael Gross, over-estimated at \$7,000-\$9,000, soared to an inexplicable \$12,650. A large and quite dreadful Kadishman also sold. But a superb watercolor, *Mending the Nets*, by Josef Israels, arguably one of the finest lots in the show and estimated at \$40,000, failed to sell.

At Christie's, an overly sweet Chagall oil, *Paysage en bleu*, brought \$288,500, closely followed by his

Jeune fille aux bas blancs. A seashore oil by Josef Israels brought \$43,700. A very nice vase of flowers by Moise Kisling sold below its estimate at \$112,500 but his huge and impressive *Portrait of Miriam*, a refugee girl, did not sell at all. Buyers may have been frightened off by the minimum estimate of \$300,000, before the buyer's premium and VAT. But Kisling's portrait of a topos girl brought its estimated \$55,200.

One of the most attractive offers at Christie's, a bright abstraction by Andre Lansky, found no bidders, even at a minimum estimate of \$8,000. Mordechai Avidon's *Marionette*, which went for \$40,250, while Danziger's brass sculpture *The Shepherd King* did well at \$51,750, as did Arikha's indifferent *The Yellow Bulb*, which went for \$433,350. Mokady's historic portrait of *Yehuda Gyor* brought an expected \$34,500.

Also at Christie's, Epstein's bronze bust of Chaim Weizmann sold for only \$9,200.

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Israelis warned: Stay out of India's plague areas

JUDY SIEGEL

ISRAELIS are advised against traveling to the areas in India that are currently reporting cases of bubonic and pneumonic plague, and to avoid a visit to the rest of the country unless absolutely necessary.

This is necessary to avoid infection, "at least until the extent of the epidemic and the health authorities' ability to control it become clear."

The plague has been identified mainly in the districts of Surat in Gujarat and Bheed in Maharashtra, neither of which attract many tourists. However, there have also been some cases in New Delhi and Bombay.

Anyone who travels to that part of the world must be very careful about hygiene and good sanitation; the efficacy of vaccines against pneumonic and bubonic plague is "not known."

Because of the shortage of antibiotics and other drugs, visitors to India

are advised to take along 20 tablets of doxycycline or 100 tablets of tetracycline. A doctor should be consulted about dosage, the ministry said.

The Indian Embassy, however, insisted in a statement that there is no shortage of drugs in India to treat these diseases.

According to the embassy, there have been no deaths from the bubonic plague being reported in Bheed. There have been deaths from pneumonic plague in Surat, but the disease has been brought under control. All the cases in the big cities are infected persons came to the cities from elsewhere, the embassy said. The disease has not spread in the cities, the statement said.

Signs of the diseases include high

fever, coughing and enlarged lymph glands in the groin and underarms. If these appear, one must go immediately for medical treatment.

Plague is caused by a bacteria transmitted by the bite of a parasitic flea that lives on rats. The pneumonic type can also be spread among people by droplets from the mouth and nose. The incubation period is one to seven days. Some of the patients develop serious pneumonia.

According to the clinic for travelers at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, the main protection against the plague is to avoid contact with infected rodents. The clinic's doctors advise those returning from India to go for a medical examination, even if the above symptoms do not appear within 10 days of their return home.

See story, Page 4

Secular families account for 20% of religious school pupils

MORE than 20 percent of the pupils in the state-religious school system come from secular families, according to a new report by Bar-Ilan University researchers.

Prof. Mordechai Bar-Lev, who conducted the study with Dr. Avraham Laslani, said that some 50,000 of the 230,000 pupils in religious-Zionist schools are not from observant homes. He reported the findings in *Meinad*, the periodical published by the religious political movement of the same name.

The two based their estimate on an analysis of three studies done between 1974 and 1983, which were validated by research they conducted this year.

According to the researchers, the phenomenon of non-religious pupils in religious schools is more

common in schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods than in schools serving wealthier populations.

Some 33% of the men and 17% of the women who graduated from religious schools and classified themselves as "not religious," still prefer to send their children to religious schools.

Most of them are Sephardim who describe themselves as "traditional."

In his article, Bar-Lev recommended that state-religious schools continue and even expand the policy of accepting children who are not from religious families, calling the daily meeting of religious and non-religious children "a Jewish obligation and an educational challenge."

JUDY SIEGEL

Bezek goes ahead with 'handshake' telecards

BEZEK officials yesterday decided to go ahead Sunday with the sale of 400,000 telecards showing Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, President Clinton and King Hussein shaking hands in Washington — despite the fact that it could expose the company to charges of "politicization."

After discussing the issue, Bezek management declared yesterday that it is a "non-political company, motivated solely by commercial considerations."

Rabin will be presented with the first such telephone card on Sunday in his office at a ceremony to be attended by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni.

Bezek spokesman Zecharya Mizrotsky said the idea for the telecard began soon after the historic ceremony on the White House lawn a few weeks ago. "No one thought it was improper," Minister Aloni also knew of it and did not object."

Asked whether Bezek had considered producing telecards showing the historic handshake of Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, or whether it would have issued the Hussein-Rabin telecard soon before an Israeli election, Mizrotsky said these questions were "hypothetical."

The phone cards will be on sale starting Sunday at Bezek and post offices; they will also be dispensed by automatic telecard machines. Mizrotsky said that if anyone objected to the card he purchased, he could exchange it for one with another photo at any Bezek business office with no questions asked.

Ministry recommends flu shots

JUDY SIEGEL

THE end of the holidays signals the need for the chronically ill and those who want to avoid missing work to get their anti-influenza shots by the end of November.

The Health Ministry yesterday advised getting the immunization during the next two months.

The high-risk population includes infants (from the age of six months), children and adults who suffer from chronic diseases; all adults over the age of 65; health workers who are in close contact with high-risk patients; tourists who are going to tropical climates throughout the year; and those going to countries in the Southern Hemisphere between April and September.

Prof. Avraham Morag, a virology expert at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem and a ministry adviser on influenza, said yesterday that vaccination is important, even though a very virulent type of virus is not expected this year.

"The virus strains this year are virtually identical to those that ap-

peared last year; when this occurs, there is no terrible epidemic," he said.

He recommends the shot for any adult for whom there is no contraindication. "There is no longer any limitation on sales to people who are not high risk."

The vaccine, available from health funds and private pharmacies with a prescription, is effective against influenza A and B. Knapat Holim Chalit said yesterday that members over 65 and chronically ill of any age can get the vaccine free; others pay NIS 9.

Although the shots are most effective if taken before the end of November (several weeks must pass to produce immunity), high-risk individuals who miss should still be immunized. High-risk babies and youngsters can be given anti-flu vaccine simultaneously with standard vaccines against childhood diseases.

Adverse reactions to the shots are rare, but people who are allergic to egg albumen should first consult with their doctor.

Pharaohs' Rally coming here this week

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Pharaohs' Rally, one of the longest motor rallies in the world, will cross from Sinai into Israel in three days, Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamedouh Belaghi told President Ezer Weizman yesterday.

"This is the first time the rally will go across the border into Israel," he noted, "and this has become possible because of peace."

"Let's hope the event will not be a one-time affair," responded Weizman, who expressed disappointment that he was not able to participate personally in the rally.

"Crossing borders is a way of bringing people together," he said.

Sportsmen from Russia, Korea and Japan will be amongst those who will join the Egyptian and Israeli motorcyclists and drivers who will cover 4,200 km, most of it over desert terrain, in 10 days.

Belaghi also told Weizman that the number of tourists from Egypt is on the rise. There have been some 14,000 Egyptian tourists so far this year, Belaghi said, as compared with 5,000 in all of 1993. "Tourism and peace go hand in hand," he said, noting that "the peace between the two countries is irreversible."

Asa released on NIS 2.5m. bail

RAINE MARCUS

STEEL magnate and industrialist Ruby Asa was released on bail here yesterday after being extradited from Switzerland, where he was in jail for over a year.

Asa, suspected of defrauding Israeli authorities out of around \$60 million, was remanded by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for six days after arriving here last week.

Yesterday, with the agreement of the national fraud squad, Asa was released on NIS 2.5 million bail by Judge Judith Amsterdam.

Suffering from depression, Asa, 72, spent much of his time in custody abroad in a psychiatric hospital. He fought for his extradition since he said he did not feel he would get a fair

trial in Switzerland. Swiss authorities also alleged he defrauded banks there.

Asa also said he wanted to fight to defend his name and to prevent his factories from being sold.

He was the owner of Ram Industries, one of the country's influential steel concerns. He fled to the Far East two years ago when faced with criminal charges.

Police here suspect that he released steel shipments from customs authorities using fraudulent invoices.

Yesterday police asked Amsterdam to ban Asa from contacting people who worked at his concern, presently in the hands of the national liquidator.

El Al, Visa offer frequent flyer deal

HAIM SHAPIRO

EL AL and Visa yesterday announced a new frequent flyer program in which two-thirds of the points needed for free flights or upgrading may be accumulated by buying goods with the credit card.

Holders of Visa's gold cards, business cards, or annual international cards may join the scheme on payment of \$15 plus VAT for an individual or \$25 plus VAT for a couple. On joining, the participant receives a number of flight bonus points.

The participants have three years in which to accumulate points and points may be accumulated by a couple, even if only one of them has a gold card, business card, or international card, and the other has an ordinary local card.

According to calculations made by the two companies, a couple who both fly twice to the US and buy an average of NIS 760 worth of goods a month over a three-year period may, with the use of their bonus points, receive one free flight to London, Paris or Amsterdam. A similar ticket would be granted to a couple who both fly once to the US and once to Europe and buy an average of NIS 3,000 worth of goods every month.

Flock of birds damages jumbo jet during take-off

HAIM SHAPIRO

A NEAR disaster was averted early yesterday morning when a flock of birds flew into an El Al jumbo jet as it was taking off from Ben-Gurion Airport, according to El Al officials.

The plane, a Boeing 747-200 with 420 passengers, was on the runway at take-off speed when the birds flew into it, according to airline spokesman Nachman Kleiman. Some of the birds were ingested into engine No. 3, damaging it. Airport officials later found metal pieces of engine on the runway, he said.

Kleiman said the crew could not stop at that point so they completed the take-off, flew out over the sea, where they dumped most of the fuel, and landed safely 45 minutes later. The passengers were sent out on two later flights that night.

According to Kleiman, the problem of birds on the runway is constant one, due to the proximity of the Hiriya garbage dump. He said it was a very serious situation, about which the airline has repeatedly complained to both the Interior Ministry and the Environment Ministry. Thus far, he said, nothing has been done about it.

Ministry of Health

MEDICAL LICENSE EXAMINATION BOARD

According to the State of Israel Physicians Regulations 1988, the examination for a license to practice medicine will be held on November 1, 1994, at 8 a.m. at the Israel Convention Center, Ganei Hata'aruha, Rokach Blvd., Tel Aviv.

The examination may be taken in the following languages: Hebrew, English, Rumanian, Spanish, French, Italian and Russian.

Examinees will be asked to present their original identity card plus a photo of the identity card.

Prof. Joseph Schenker
Chairman of the Examination Board
Pursuant to Israel State Regulations 1988

Ministry of Health

MEDICAL LICENSE EXAMINATION BOARD (INTERNSHIP)

According to the State of Israel Physicians Regulations 1988, the licensing examination for Internship will be held on November 1, 1994, at 8 a.m., at the Israel Convention Center, Ganei Hata'aruha, Rokach Blvd., Tel Aviv.

The examination may be taken in the following languages: Hebrew, English, Rumanian, Spanish, French, Italian and Russian.

Examinees will be asked to present their original identity card plus a photo of the identity card.

Prof. Joseph Schenker
Chairman of the Examination Board
Pursuant to Israel State Regulations 1988

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[illegible]

If you're tired of reading the Torah, see the movie

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MEISELS

THE annual cycle of Torah reading began in synagogues this week, but those who would rather see the movie than read the book can purchase a children's videocassette released this summer.

Though aimed at ages four to 10, it was thoroughly enjoyed by the adults in my household. I would highly recommend it to all but the very hardy, who may find its humorous touches irreverent.

Some may also object to the near-total nudity of the animated characters in the Creation and Garden of Eden episodes; Eve's breasts are clearly visible, although Adam's genitals are not. The cassette also includes Noah's Ark and the Tower of Babel.

The text, by Meir Shalev, is imaginative but does not stray far from the original. The delightful animation is the work of Yossi Aboulafia.

The film, produced in the Anima studio in Tel Aviv, runs about 35 minutes. It is the first of a planned series of five Bible-story cassettes aimed at youngsters here and abroad.

The Hebrew version is available for both PAL (used locally and in most of Europe) and NTSC television/video systems. The local price is NIS 49.90, and it is available at book and record shops.

The distributor is Classikalet (03-695-3992), and the title is *Shalomei Hatanach* ("Stories of the Bible").

An English-language version will be released shortly. For details, call Naomi Schacter at Media Connections, 02-731568.

This company does the international distribution for a new storybook videocassette about Shabbat for children, combining live action and clay animation.

The English version is entitled *Shalom Shabbat*, and the Hebrew is *Mahar Shabbat* ("Tomorrow is Shabbat"), available in PAL and NTSC.

Topol narrates in both languages. The two versions are available through The Jerusalem Post book department for NIS 49.

A LOCALLY produced video of English nursery rhymes and songs is something I would love to be able to recommend highly, but cannot because some of its performers sing with Israeli accents.

Nevertheless, I can recommend it to those parents not disturbed by this flaw. The English is otherwise correct.

Hokey Pokey features the cat and the fiddle on its front cover and Humpty Dumpty on the back. There are 32 songs and dances, including a couple of original ones by the producer.

The cassette is the brainchild of Barney Stefanson of Moshav Omer near Beersheba, who was inspired by the desire to impart some of his American heritage to his sabra son.

The read-along, sing-along cassette has English subtitles. It is available at Steimatzky, Shekema



(Clockwise from top left) Makor Rishon offers framed original color drawings from films made at Anima Studios; Classikalet's animated Bible-story videocassette for children; for the child who has everything, A.N.A.T.'s cellular phones to take to school; Beigel Beigel now makes salt-free pretzels.

and at baby-goods chains: Shilav and Ben Uri. It is distributed by M.C.I. (03-497119).

Stefanson, who calls his company Cactus Productions (07-467082), hopes to export *Hokey Pokey* to Japan and Korea.

Its target age group is 10 months to 10 years. Running time is 43 minutes, and the retail price is exactly the same as the Bible-story cassette, NIS 49.90. The Jerusalem Post Book Department carries the PAL version for NIS 49 and the NTSC for NIS 54.

A NOVEL gift for babies and children, available from a new compa-

ny called "Makor Rishon" (First-hand), offers framed original drawings from the children's animated films made at Anima Studios.

Both the pictures and the frames are in color. Some are from popular advertising films, but most are from stories familiar to children here and their parents.

The recommended retail price is a rather steep NIS 95, but each picture comes with certification that it is an original.

The framed drawings are available at four locations in Tel Aviv—Futon at 54 Frishman, Galeria Meyatzev at 33 Yehuda Halevi,

Galeria 7 at 4 Kikar Malchei Yisrael and at the Tel Aviv Museum. Makor Rishon can be reached at 03-544-5215 or 03-605-0220.

HOGLA HAS joined the ranks of firms producing disposable training pants. They are called "Tah-tonchik" and are meant to complement Hogla's Tutulim diapers.

They are unisex and come in two sizes—medium for children weighing 10 to 15 kilos and large for those 15 kilos and up.

The recommended price is NIS 24.90 for a package containing 14 or 16 pieces, depending on the size.



Asdár, located in the Barkan industrial park, believes in *vive la difference*. Its training pants, called Tah-tonchik, were placed on the market during the summer in different versions for boys and girls.

A package retails for NIS 27 and contains 15 pieces in medium size, 13 in large and a dozen in extra large.

WHITMAN HAS come up with a novel packaging for ice cream—an individual-portion plastic pack with a throwaway spoon. It comes in two flavors—vanilla with chocolate bits and chocolate with hazel-

nuts and raisins. The recommended price is NIS 3.80 for 90 grams of ice cream labeled "Tzameret Hashamener" (creme de la creme).

A SALT-FREE pretzel may sound like a contradiction in terms, but that's exactly what is being offered as the latest word from Beigel Beigel.

The cloverleaf-shaped pretzels can be used as a base for dips or as a snack on their own. The term "lelo melah" appears in Hebrew only, but there is a list of ingredients in English and French.

The pretzels have an Eda Har-

dirt hechsher. The price is NIS 2.70 for 300 grams.

THE PRETENTIOUSNESS prize for Rosh Hashana goes to A.N.A.T., a Tel Aviv-based import and distribution company. It is promoting portable cellular phones for schoolchildren.

The phone is the compact pocket model by Motorola, which retails for what is promoted as the "attractive price of NIS 1,760 plus VAT."

It is aimed at kids from 10 to 17 so they can keep in touch with their homes while at school, at after-school activities and on trips.

This 'poor executive's car' is good looking but lacking

MOTORING

JOEL GORDIN

RENAULT LAGUNA. Engine: 1,996 cc. Horsepower: 115 at 750 cc. Torque: 17.5 at 3,500 cc. Gear: manual. Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 10.6 sec. Maximum speed: 200 kph. Gasoline Consumption: at 90 kph, 15.6 km/l; in town, 11.3 km/l. Price: NIS 102,000.

THE "flag car" of the Renault fleet is the super-luxury Saffron. There is only one in this country, owned by Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball chairman Shimon Mizrahi.

The local Renault dealers, Carasso & Sons, decided not to import the Saffron because of its price—more than NIS 150,000.

However, the company is offering us the Laguna, which made its debut on European roads about four months ago.

The Laguna is the successor to

the Renault 21 which was not a stunning success here. Thus Carasso prefers to refer to the Laguna as the "younger sister of the Saffron." They rate it in the "executive car" class, emphasizing its "economical price tag."

A 2-liter automatic costs NIS 107,500, while a 2-liter manual (which I tested) and the 1.8-liter manual sell for NIS 87,500. The Laguna has modern, aerodynamic lines. It's short (4.5 m.) and wide (1.75 m.), with a long, beak-like hood and stubby back-side.

There is no trunk. The Laguna is available only as a five-door or hatchback; the trunk is contained within the passenger compartment.

Car buyers here tend to be shy of hatchbacks, for no good reason. The loading space in the Laguna (as in many other hatchbacks) is

huge and can be made even bigger by folding the rear seats down.

The seating space is also impressive. The extra width is exploited to the full, while the rear legroom surpasses that found in most of the Laguna's rivals.

The rest of the inside finish looks perfect, from the last stitch in the plush upholstery on the seats to the smallest switch in the dashboard.

BEAUTY, HOWEVER, can be skin deep. The front seats are shaped at an uncomfortable angle and the lumbar support is in the wrong place.

I had difficulty trying to read just the seat angle because the

price refers lacks high-tech goodies offered by some competitors.

There are electrically controlled side mirrors, central door locking and power windows in the front, and a state-of-the-art, silent climate controller at which a comfortable temperature can be set and locked into a computer memory.

However, the climate controller is not "split" (i.e., there's no air duct to the rear), so the temperature will not be quite the same for the rear passengers.

ABS brakes are standard on the 2-liter models—bad sunroof, cruise control, road computer, spoiler and safety airbags are not.

Some of these features can be ordered as options or are standard in the more expensive RXE version.

The engine, like the climate controller, is noiseless, which makes listening conditions to the (optional) CD/radio/tape deck as good as in a recording studio.

Like most European automobiles, the Laguna is more geared to flexibility than to sheer power.

This means it can reach maximum speeds and bursts of acceleration without the driver having to rev the engine up to the red line—another good reason for the pleasing lack of noise.

I drove from around 20 kph to the maximum legal speed without shifting out of third gear.

For those who like contact with the road, a car like this is a good compromise. The flexibility makes it semiautomatic, while, for

snazzy driving, the potential to shift is always there.

On the other hand, this is not a car for speeding. It weighs about 1½ tons and the road holding is adequate, nothing more. The soft suspension is geared more to comfort than serious motoring.

The excellent gasoline consumption is worth noting. The relatively short length also makes it easy to park, although an annoying blind spot hampers vision when reversing into a parking space.

The Laguna offers space, comfort and class, but not tremendous motoring performance.

The unfortunate Renault 21 was sometimes sarcastically referred to as the "poor man's executive car."

I would term the reasonably priced Laguna "the poor executive's car."

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

10-GEAR LADIES SPORT BIKE - excellent condition, NIS 300. 02-615320.
RADIATOR - 17 lbs. NIS 700. 02-6239534.
SEWING MACHINE - Singer electric, NIS 100. 58-veezan, 5 Mero Ze'ev St., Ramat Gan.
ELECTRIC HEATER - Braun. Vario universal, rechargeable, NIS 180. 04-345844.
CINE CAMERA - Bell Howell 8mm, NIS 80; projector, NIS 100; accessories, NIS 200. excellent condition. 02-615320.
TV-RADIO - light as a feather, NIS 200. 02-665382.
TELEPHONE/ANSWERING MACHINE - Panasonic, NIS 300. 02-638334.
SWEAT SUITS - men's bottom-down T-shirts, size 4x, 1 navy, 1 white, NIS 25 each. 02-511925. NS.
8 WARSAW-VILNA BOOTS - 75 years old, NIS 200. old-fashioned, 100 years and more. NIS 15-50 each. 02-513741.
DOWN COMFORTER - luxurious and comfy, for double bed, in excellent condition. 02-511925. NS.
BOLLERSKATES - white, size 36, excellent condition, NIS 65. 02-510194. NS.
CRIS - Israeli, blond wood, NIS 250. 02-571961.
SERVING MATRESS - 90 x 200, good condition, NIS 200; original oil painting, NIS 100. 02-561327.
LADIES' DOWN COAT - new, hooded, size small, black, NIS 250; boots, Calvin Klein, waterproof, size 36-NIS 20. 02-665426.
VACUUM CLEANER - Hoover, NIS 250; trunk, black, NIS 40. 02-782111.

DOUBLE-SIZE SHEETS - new, NIS 250; electric hair clipper, NIS 50. 02-764515.
CHILDRENS' - Her's 10 different regular or remakes taken from tabloid/fabulistic sources, NIS 20. P.O.B. 61355, Jerusalem.
CLASSICAL GUITAR - slightly damaged, NIS 300. Jada, 02-783118.
WOODEN - NIS 140; electrical convection heater, NIS 140; clock mechanism for wall clock, NIS 10. 02-763925.
ELECTRIC SINK - stainless steel, with drain, length 180, depth 35, NIS 200. 02-66457.
PIANO - upright, attractive, C. Otto, in need of tuning, NIS 300. 02-615377. NS.
MEN'S TRENCH COAT - like new, Casamini, US size 36 long (Israeli size 46), NIS 150; answering machine, Phonemate, NIS 150. 02-535584. NS.
MATTAC DRYER - small, NIS 250. 02-918069.
STATIONARY BIKE - NIS 280. 02-634484.
18-SPEED BICYCLE - NIS 250. White, frame no. to P.O.B. 7157, Jerusalem.
WOODEN DINING TABLE - with 4 wooden chairs, excellent condition, NIS 300. 02-727158.
LOUNGE COUCH - NIS 200; portable bar, NIS 300. 02-702911.
MOTORCYCLE HELMET - Kivi, large, simple, white, NIS 150. Tony, 02-787005.
INSULATED PICNIC BAG - new from L.L. Bean, NIS 50; citrus juicer, new, NIS 60. 02-511763. NS.
MEN'S DRESS SHOES - Italian, black, elegant, size 45, excellent quality, NIS 210. 02-374547.

PORTABLE AM/FM CASSETTE STEREO - Sony, auto-reverse, detachable speakers, equalizer, great condition, NIS 300. 02-61860.
LANCONE LIPSTICK - "Matte Cologne," NIS 45; Paris perfume, 1.6 oz., NIS 115; low-fat cookbook, new, NIS 60. 02-790240.
ALL-WEATHER RAINCOAT - zip-out lining, name brand, NIS 200; Neutrogena moisturizer, NIS 20 each. 02-375227. NS.
BABIES' CHEST OF DRAWERS - and changing top, white, from Shilav, almost new, NIS 300. 02-638403. NS.
2 YOUTH BEDS - wood, with pull-out beds, NIS 150 each. 02-763599. NS.
ROUND WHITE PLASTIC TABLE - Keter, 30 cm. diameter, bought 2 months ago, NIS 50. 02-638043. NS.
BIKING SHOES - 41/42, black, crepe soles, hardly worn, NIS 160. 02-580334. NS.
HALOGEN STANDING LAMP - flexible, 300 w., black and gold metal, 2.20 meters, almost new, NIS 300. 02-551232. even.
"AUSTRALIAN WOMAN WEEKLY" - 1992-1993, NIS 3 each. 02-702911.
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SMITH CORONA TYPEWRITER - electric, almost new, 220 v., NIS 300. 02-369641. NS.
SANYO STEREO PLAYER - good condition, 3 in 1 without speakers, NIS 260 o.b.o. 02-765727.
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N.Y.P.D. - Did you tape show on Aug. 23? *Melrose Place* on Aug. 16? If yes, call 02-716716.
ARE YOU A MONTESSORI TEACHER? - I'd love to talk with you. Ann, 02-352413.
SURFCASES - large and small, used but good. 02-546661. evenings.
OVEN - second-hand, large, white, gas, American, c.p. Magic Chef, for my teenage son. Steve, 02-811085.
MAGILLOT ESTHER - used scroll for bar-mitzva boy. 02-639263. NS.
TAPE OF MICHIGAN-NOTRE DAME - game from cable, Sept. 10. 02-611240. NS.
ALKALI HEBREW-ENGLISH - dictionary. 02-34508. even.
2 BOOKCASES - height 2.40m, minimum, oak if possible. 02-619458.
COMPUTERS - XT or AT, in working condition. 02-432691.

CHILD'S CAR SEAT - Century or Fisher-Price, in good condition, with washable cover. Also inexpensive baby stroller. 02-418084.
OLD BOOKS AND JUDAICA - 02-812622.
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ANYONE HAVE EXPERIENCE - in export-import? 02-820126.
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BEANART PATRON - desperately seeking studio or partners in existing studio for two painters. Toby, 02-631674, or Haddy, 02-77120.
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WHITE POODLE - adorable, fully trained, very loving, warm, friendly and calm temperament, great with children, for adoption into warm, loving home. 02-663822, 02-202480.
4 KITTENS - tiger-stripe, one ginger, 3 brown, 6 weeks old, to a good home. 02-765036.

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Rabin's puzzling threats

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement yesterday that he would stop negotiating with the US and Syria if the "Golan majority law" appears to have a chance of passing in the Knesset can only make the electorate suspicious and uneasy.

The very fact that Rabin objects to such a law is puzzling. Sponsored by members of the Labor Party, the proposed bill merely stipulates that any relinquishment of land now under Israeli sovereignty and jurisdiction must have a majority of 70 Knesset members, or - if it is decided in a referendum - a majority of 65 percent of the votes cast.

By threatening to quit negotiations Rabin openly admits that he does not believe he can muster such a majority for any deal he can make. And since it is all too apparent that any deal short of complete withdrawal would probably get a comfortable majority, there is no escaping the conclusion that he expects to announce the complete forfeiture of the Golan, just as he has intimated at a meeting of the Labor Party executive.

Moreover, in rejecting the proposal to require a special majority for such an agreement, Rabin is defying all democratic traditions. In no democratic society is a simple majority sufficient for major, fateful national decisions. A typical example in recent history is the declaration by Charles De Gaulle, a great proponent and user of referenda, that decisive issues must be determined by decisive votes.

De Gaulle opposed constitutional changes which relied on a simple majority, and warned that the proposal to withdraw from Algeria must receive a "frank and massive" affirmative vote. He accepted the popular mandate to proceed with

withdrawal only when the referendum resulted with a 79% majority for his plan. Needless to mention, there is no comparison between the importance of the Golan to Israel and that of Algeria to the French. The evacuation of French troops from Algeria had no vital security implications for France, nor did it mean giving up an area of immense historical significance to the French people.

Even more puzzling is Rabin's use of the Hizbullah's terror campaign against Israel to scare Israelis into a peace treaty with Syria. In this Rabin is playing directly into Syrian hands. Israeli leaders now openly admit what only a year ago they denied: that the "Iranian-led" Hizbullah does not and cannot operate without full Syrian collaboration, and that the Hizbullah attacks against Israeli soldiers and civilians are nothing but part of the Syrian negotiating tactics.

Like all dictators, Hafez Assad believes that talks with democracies should be accompanied by violence to create internal demands for a quick resolution of the conflict, even at the cost of egregious concessions in the enemy camp. In his fondest dreams he could not have hoped for more than the direct assistance Rabin gave his negotiation strategy yesterday.

It is difficult to believe that Rabin is truly glib enough to think that Hizbullah terrorism would stop once Israel quits the Golan and southern Lebanon. Surely his experience in the Middle East must have taught him that, if anything, an Israeli withdrawal under the pressure of terrorism is an invitation for even more intensive terror. That he felt compelled to use the argument is a sad commentary on the tactics he would use to get his way.

The sinking of the Estonia

THE scale of yesterday's ferry disaster in the Baltic is hard to comprehend. For Sweden, which kept out of two world wars, the death of 500 people is the worst sudden loss of life to hit its citizens this century. In this country of 8.5 million people, a large part of the population will know, or know of, someone among them. The news plunged newly-independent Estonia into deep shock and an official state of mourning for the first national disaster since it regained its freedom.

After such tragedies, cynics often comment that more fuss is made of them when they occur in the First World than in the Third - where many such accidents are reported from places like India, Bangladesh, or Indonesia. There may be an element of truth in the observation, but there are reasons which are not necessarily malignant or callous.

In the first place, closer to home is always closer to the public heart. There is nothing wrong with Israeli concern for the fate of Jews far away or American concern for accidents involving their traveling citizens. Tragedies in India raise appropriate concern in India and neighboring countries.

It is also true, and valid, that the shock at the sinking of this modern ferry in the Baltic is greater, because developed world citizens have much higher expectations of their safety standards, regulations, and procedures. In the Far East such accidents often occur because careless citizens crowd onto decrepit vessels in an environment of weak authority, inadequate policing, and non-existent controls. In Europe, the full resources of highly sophisticated states have been

developed for decades, with plentiful funding, to reduce the impact of natural or man-made accidents. The sinking of the *Estonia* in such circumstances becomes inexplicable.

A similar outcry was raised in 1987 when the British car ferry *Herald of Free Enterprise* capsized and sank after leaving the Belgian port of Zeebrugge, killing 193 people. The cause was proved to be crew error in setting sail with car-deck doors open. The consequent flurry of investigations, tightened regulations, and safety measures left Europeans hopeful that they could board these vessels with confidence. Neither was the *Estonia* a decrepit old tub - it was German-built, only 14 years old, and was fitted with up-to-date safety devices.

Comment on the cause of the *Estonia* ferry disaster must of course wait for the appropriate investigations, but the Estonian government warned that if it again proved to be human carelessness, severe penalties would be forthcoming. The first suspicion was that it might be in some way attributable to the disgraceful damage 70 years of fake communist "progress" has wrought on the environment, technical standards, and public attitudes of the unfortunate Europeans who were subjected to it.

A recent spate of air crashes in Russia has raised international alarm about safety standards there. The *Estonia* may at least provide a timely warning that the high technical standards Europe has so carefully nurtured must be spread eastwards as quickly as possible. It would be a real tragedy if the rotten institutions and attitudes left by the Communists should travel the other way.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANTISEMITISM: ALIVE AND KICKING

Sir, - I am very glad you published the lengthy letter by Dr. Chandra Muzaffar of the Just World Trust in Penang, Malaysia (August 21), advocating no recognition of Israel. Underneath a sheen of civilised discourse, it fairly reeks of prejudice, lies and deception. It should serve as a strong dose of medicine for those who believe the minds of certain intellectuals and opinion-makers have changed in any way since the advent to peace in the Middle East.

It also demonstrates - yet again - that there is no such thing as anti-Zionism without antisemitism. Listen to Dr. Muzaffar's portrayal of Israel that echoes with the stereotypical words used to characterize Jews through the centuries: "Israel has not made any meaningful concession to the just Palestinian struggle for nationhood. On the contrary, it has with tremendous craft and cunning manipulated the so-called 'peace process' (my emphasis).

I am afraid that wherever we go these days - even in the most "sophisticated" circles in the developed and developing worlds - we find that despite peace, despite Holocaust films, despite what we have learned from Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda, racism towards Jews and Israel is healthy and strong. In the worlds of diplomacy and journalism, in which I work, this is no less so.

This should not be surprising since even when Jews do not make up a significant portion of the population of a country - such as Malaysia - antisemitism somehow finds the right atmosphere to flourish.

The only surprising thing is that we are surprised or take no measures to protect our interest. The lesson of Dr. Muzaffar's letter is the same as that of the recent bombings in Buenos Aires and London: we simply cannot let down our guard.

Ottawa. AHARON MAYNE

YISHUV VIOLENCE

Sir, - Sraya Shapiro's characterization of the Haganah sector of the Hapoel sports club during the Mandate period as "charged... with battling Revisionist thugs" (*There and Then*, September 4) needs to be strenuously opposed.

As far back as 1977, Anita Shapiro (now professor and head of the Zionism History Department of Tel Aviv University) published research on the use made by the Mapii (Labor) movement of initiated violence against Revisionist party members. Others also wrote of this officially sponsored policy.

From the late 1920s and all through the 1930s, culminating in the beating to death of Betar member Eliyahu Shiloni in Herzliya in 1940 and then the infamous "Saison" period when IZL and Lehi fighters were handed over to the British, Mapii violence was directed against their political and ideological rivals.

Violence was a normative instrument of power wielded by Mapii. I would suggest that it was they who were the thugs.

YISRAEL MEDAD

Shiloh.

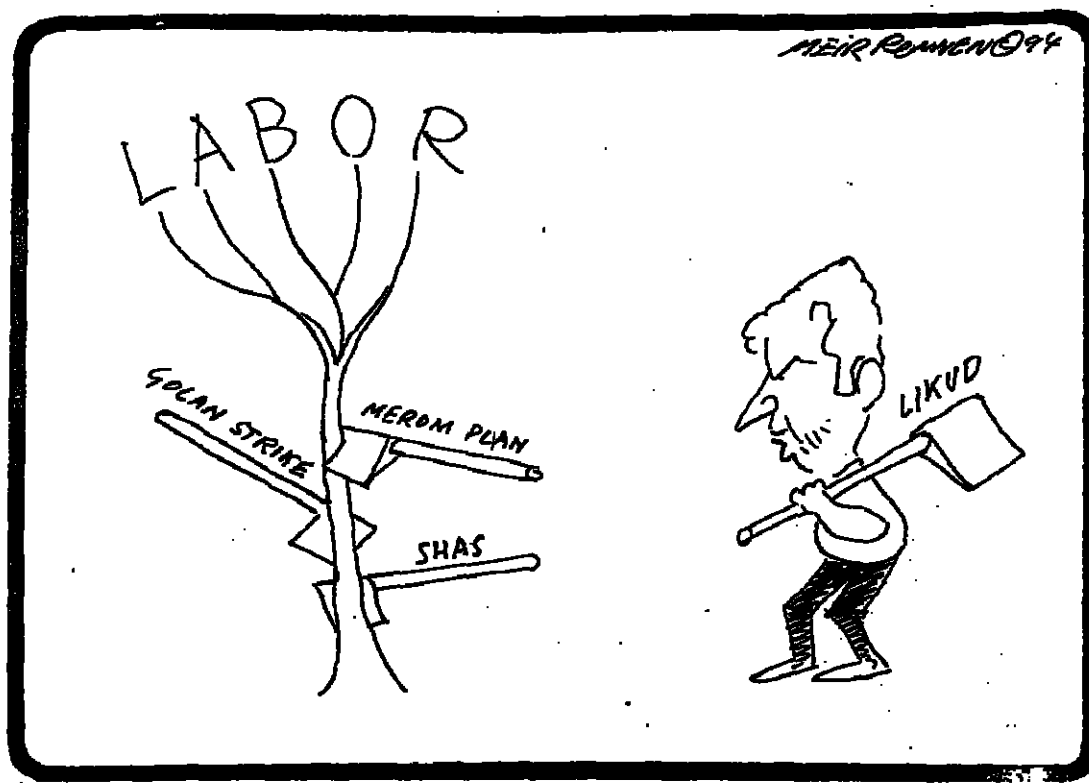
UNACCEPTABLE DOCTRINE

Sir, - No one should really be surprised at Rabbi Ginsburg's latest outburst ("Probe of rabbi who called Hebron massacre a mitzva," September 5). As a Habad hassid, he is merely repeating the unfortunate Habad doctrine on gentiles and their place in God's affections. The vast majority of religious Jews find this doctrine unacceptable, but either are too embarrassed to talk about it, or, like most civilized people, simply cannot believe that anyone these days can take it seriously - and ignore it. That is a mistake. In the minds of religious fanatics and in the context of today's political situation, these ideas take on a very real and practical meaning. They are the sort of ideas which made it easier for Goldstein to carry out his murderous action and, propagated by rabbis such as Ginsburg, are likely to encourage other to similar crimes.

One or two rabbis have censured Ginsburg's views. Most have remained silent. Their silence, whatever its reasons, will be regarded by many ordinary religious Jews as concurrence with Ginsburg's judgments and provide him with widespread approval. Moderate religious leaders in Israel and the Diaspora must condemn Ginsburg's "halachic" opinions out of hand - loudly and clearly and repeatedly. Only their condemnation can prevent these opinions from becoming the accepted wisdom of large segments of religious Jewry in Israel - with grim results for us all.

NACHUM APPLETON

Ra'anana.



The secret surrender

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

IN a rare, frank moment, Hafez Assad lowered his poker player's mask and blurted out an admission. He couldn't stomach the fact that Israelis on Mount Hermon were peering at him through his bedroom window. "It burns me night and day," he said.

The visiting statesman who got such an unexpected glimpse of the Syrian ruler's inner thoughts made no comment. He wanted to be invited back to Syria.

But in a report which reached European intelligence services, he underlined a deduction known to every child in the Golan Heights: as long as Israeli binoculars can track every movement of every one of the 4,000 tanks stationed around Damascus, the Syrians aren't launch a surprise attack on Israel. Assad knows that Israel's artillery can unleash its deadliest shells in seconds.

If Assad is so frustrated by Peeping Tom Israelis, why is he refusing to concede a single centimeter? If the Israelis withdrew only a few kilometers from their dominating height, surely they would no longer see Damascus or those modern T-72 Russian tanks, let alone be able to watch Assad in his nightwear.

The startling truth is that Assad doesn't have to make a single concession to regain the entire Golan. He doesn't have to shake Yitzhak Rabin's hated Jewish hand. He doesn't have to implement a full peace. He doesn't have to wait the 15 to 30 years Rabin wants before the Syrians raise their flag on the shores of the Kinneret.

An agreement has already been struck between the two leaders, surrendering every last centimeter of the Golan. And it could include land which was in Israeli hands even before the 1967 war.

Said a high-ranking army officer: "So what does Assad have to negotiate about? Why should he make concessions? Why should he even pretend to be reasonable?"

Eight months ago, the officer revealed, a highly secret deal was outlined between Rabin and Assad, with American advisers acting as a catalyst. Not even Shimon Peres was party to the accord. Israel's military high command was simply asked what details were necessary to ensure a smooth handing over of the Golan.

Senior army officers soon realized what was in the offing. Many of them were horrified by the dangers to Galilee and the Jordan Valley stemming from total surrender of the Golan.

The army officer who was our source told us the reason for Rabin's secrecy. "He wanted to present the Israeli public with a fait accompli, signed and sealed. Rabin believed he could get away with giving up the Golan, lock, stock and barrel. He wanted to pull the same sort of stunt as he had with the Oslo agreement."

However, news of the deal

leaked out to the media just before the High Holy Days. Another senior army man said to us: "How could I pray on Yom Kippur, how could I say those awesome words 'Next Year in Jerusalem,' when I knew that the consequence of the government's actions would lead, inexorably, to the fall of Jerusalem's walls again?"

RABIN WAS deeply irked by the premature leaking of his secret surrender to Syria. He revealed the extent of his irritation by calling the Golan hunger strikers undemocratic and anarchistic.

Evaluations at army headquarters spell out that, should Israel withdraw its forces from the Golan, there would be no possibility of defending Galilee or the Jordan Valley against the full armada of Syrian tanks sweeping down from the Heights.

An agreement already struck between Assad and Rabin cedes every last centimeter of the Golan

We were told by our military sources: "Maneuvers simulating an Arab attack have proved that unless the IDF dominates the Golan, we cannot stop such a massive weight of armor, backed by Syrian long-range artillery, plus their missiles, plus their vast army."

Even Chief of General Staff Ehud Barak has spoken about the Golan's strategic importance. Since meeting Assad in Geneva in January, President Clinton has worked for an Israeli-Syrian peace deal. He desperately needs a success, somewhere, anywhere, as a counterweight to his foreign policy failures.

To enable Rabin to calm Israeli fears about surrendering the Golan, Clinton agreed some months ago to an American presence of first 250, then, reluctantly, 800 men on the Heights. His military advisers, remembering the 250 American dead in terrorist actions in Beirut, have warned that such an operation in the area would need two full divisions.

Before the American landing of troops in Haiti, Clinton requested and Rabin agreed to 30 Israeli policemen joining the law-and-order force being dispatched to the island. Meir Rosenne, a former Israeli ambassador to Washington, explained why.

The administration, he said, has never forgotten the Jewish opposition to the war in Vietnam. Clin-

ton clearly hoped the Israeli presence in Haiti would buy Jewish silence in America. And in exchange for his sending the policemen, Rabin hopes the US will pay the estimated \$42.5 billion needed to compensate displaced Golan Heights settlers.

After Assad met Clinton, he was convinced that Rabin needs peace with Syria at any cost. He could, therefore, hang tough. Rabin's stage-by-stage withdrawal concept, designed as an opiate to drug the Israeli public, was whittled away. The 30 years that would span full withdrawal shrank to 10, five, and then three years. Assad rejected all these concessions contemptuously.

Assad wants all the Golan Heights. He is determined to plant his flag on the shores of the Sea of Galilee - and he wants fishing rights in its waters. "We want in the Golan what Sadat got from Begin," he has said repeatedly. "Why should we settle for less?" (Israel returned "every inch" of Sinai.)

Rabin's demands that Syria reduce its armed forces between one-third to one-half were laughed off. And Assad harshly dismissed requests that he visit Jerusalem, like Sadat did, and shake hands with Rabin. "I'd rather lose my arm than shake the hand of an Israeli," the Syrian leader retorted.

The Israel-Syrian deal seemed to be in danger some three months ago. Despite being caught in a trap of his own making, Rabin balked at the Syrians' territorial demands. Then the Americans came to the rescue with an "arbitration plan." Following Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the dismantling of its 33 settlements, a Tabat-style arbitration panel would be set up. To this, the Syrian "crafty fox" promptly agreed. Dictators never cede to arbitrators.

Among demands to be "arbitrated": the strategic area of El-Hama (Hamat Gader) on the Syrian, Jordanian and Israeli borders, the Banyas and other Golan water resources, all claimed in their entirety by Assad.

To this day, Assad hasn't budged an inch from his original demands. Patiently, he waits for Rabin to deliver, knowing how much his reputation hangs on getting a peace treaty - any treaty - with Syria.

Rabin signaled his desperation when he said recently that "the Golan is at the bottom of my list of priorities." This came in sharp contrast to his pre-election promises about the Golan, and to his declaration of less than a year ago: "I don't need anyone to teach me about the Golan. I fought for it."

That fight has turned into a full-scale retreat.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

No honor

AMOS CARMEL

WHAT did the author of Proverbs mean when he wrote "And he who hath gifts shall live"?

He must have been referring to gifts like the ancient Torah scroll Yasser Arafat gave Yitzhak Rabin at the beginning of this week.

Whatever viewpoint we consider this present from, it raises serious problems.

First: there are no Judaica museums in Yemen. Thus it is clear that the Torah scroll from Yemen was either abandoned or stolen property.

And what kind of gift is that? Second, journalists who heard that a gesture from Arafat was expected, immediately thought it would be something like the uniform of a missing Israeli serviceman.

And recalling all the hoo-ha when half of the identity tag belonging to MIA Zecharia Baunel was handed over 10 months ago, one could even imagine that some grotesque gesture of this kind would be forthcoming.

When Arafat gave Rabin a Torah scroll, it raised all sorts of unpleasant questions

But there's one thing one couldn't have imagined, and that was our inability (or unwillingness) to tell Arafat, firmly: "If making gestures is your intention - how about handing over all the information you have about our soldiers who are missing in action?"

Third: still on the business of gestures: More than a month ago, two Israeli citizens were murdered by Palestinians, who then escaped to Gaza. The names of the murderers were immediately transmitted to Arafat, and their extradition demanded.

If gestures are in order, what is being done in this connection? Fourth: Rabin wouldn't have entered a mosque with his shoes on, or a church with a hat on. Given that a gesture of a religious nature was made, how could the prime minister have examined that Torah scroll without donning a kippa?

We opened with a quotation from Proverbs. Let us end with one from I Samuel: "And you shall call the boy Ichabod (without honor)" - to signify that honor has departed from Israel.

The writer, a scientist, comments on current affairs.

POSTSCRIPTS

WANT To spend eternity in the company of a president, rubbing elbows with a music star or in the neighborhood of someone like Marilyn Monroe?

There's space available - for a price.

A Richmond, Virginia, woman recently spent \$9,000 for six grave sites in the city's historic Hollywood Cemetery. She'll share space with presidents John Tyler, and James Monroe, and Jefferson Davis, the only president of the Confederacy.

The woman answered an ad from a man who wanted to cash in his space in a 150-year-old section of the cemetery.

Burial sites near other big names also are available. For \$10,000, there's a four-space lot three meters from the grave of country music star Hank Williams in Montgomery, Alabama.

Some of the most-sought sites surround Marilyn Monroe's wall crypt outside Los Angeles. "You can get within a number of feet," cemetery manager Barbara Parker said. "But most people who ask are fans who couldn't afford it."

Grave sites at Parker's Westwood Cemetery begin at \$15,000 and spaces near Monroe's crypt cost many, many times that, she said.

One fellow got lucky, though, through a friend who works in a cemetery. He snapped up a spot two meters from the ashes of Lucille Ball.

THE INTERNAL Revenue Service threatened to seize a company in Montrose, Colorado, for a penny underpayment of its taxes.

Rainmaker's Inc. accountant Tom Jaskunas said he informed the IRS the shortfall resulted from rounding that is supposed to be allowed. But he got a nasty written reply: "We must now consider taking your wages, property and other assets."

Congressman Scott McInnis got involved, sending the IRS a letter with a penny taped to it. He said the IRS should provide an explanation "when reality sets in."

Humiliated, the IRS wrote back saying it was dropping the matter. Denver IRS spokeswoman DIANE Cunningham refused to comment specifically on the case, but said: "This isn't something that would happen on a one-cent underpayment."



"Kiss up to the murderous Junta by applauding their 'honor'... Allow more blood of Haitian victims, add garlic, and, voila!"

ANDRE LUMBROSÒ



trading the Call options firmed up somewhat, which usually points to an improvement in the market the following day.

Considering that the Maof Index now stands at 192, it is unlikely that a rise today might make the 200 calls in the money.

—	1.3001/14	5.3479/57
76.85/9N	—	4.1113/75
18.66/7N	0.2429/32	—

Prices from 11:00 local time

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from approximately
three days' time. All others are closing quotes.)
Source: Commodity Trading Ltd. (Cable 25-SEP-84)

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Source: ComenStock Trading Ltd.

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFr	FFr
MARK	—	0.4090/94	53.74/77	0.829/164	3.4117/22
STERLING	2.4434/44	—	155.74/86	2.0254/78	8.3317/49
YEN	1.5678/93	0.6415/22	—	1.3001/14	5.3479/57
SFr	1.2063/65	0.4931/37	76.85/94	—	4.1113/75
FFr	0.2929/33	0.1198/00	18.56/74	0.2429/32	—

Prices from 23:00 local time



UNDERFOOT - Goalkeeper Dmitri Tyapuchkin of Spartak Moscow makes a save on David Ginola of Paris St. Germain as Spartak player Ramis Mamedov looks on during the European Champions League match yesterday.

Paris St. Germain stages second-half comeback

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Paris St. Germain came from behind with a brace of second-half goals to snatch a 2-1 win over Spartak Moscow in their European Champions' League match yesterday.

Brazilian playmaker Valdo put the French side ahead in the 60th minute, scoring from a free kick on the edge of the box with the help of a deflection from Spartak defender Yuri Nikiforov.

Just four minutes earlier, 30-year-old Paul Le Guen had changed the course of the match and silenced Moscow's Luzhnik stadium with a spectacular left-foot drive from 20 meters.

Spartak had gone ahead in the 38th minute when midfielder Rashid Rakhimov pounced on a rebound from a free-kick and powered a shot through the net.

But they struggled to recover their first half form and, having wiped out the deficit, the French

side battered down the hatches in defense and took control of midfield.

Spartak's chances were dealt another blow mid-way through the second half when defender Ramis Mamedov was shown a red card for pulling down an opponent in a scoring position.

The French could have gone further ahead late in the game when Daniel Bravo chipped over Spartak keeper Dmitri Tyapuchkin only to see the ball squirt wide of the post.

AC Milan 3, Salzburg 0
Holders AC Milan returned to form by beating Salzburg in Milan but may face UEFA disciplinary action after visiting goalkeeper Otto Konrad was hit by a missile thrown from the crowd. The goalkeeper appeared to have been struck by one of several bottles thrown by celebrating Milan fans.

European Champions' League:
In Moscow: Spartak Moscow (Russia) 1, Paris St. Germain (France) 2 (1-0). Scores:

Spartak Moscow - Rashid Rakhimov (38th), Paris St. Germain - Paul Le Guen (56th), Valdo (60th). Attendance: 40,000.

In Munich: Bayern Munich (Germany) 1, Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 0 (1-0). Scores: Mehmet Scholl (9th). Attendance: 20,000.

In Lisbon: Benfica (Portugal) 3, Anderlecht (Belgium) 1 (2-0). Scores: Benfica - Claudio Caniggia (26th and 41st), Fernando Tavares (72nd), Anderlecht - Paulo Madeira (own goal, 86th). Attendance: 45,000.

In Istanbul: Galatasaray (Turkey) 0, Manchester United (England) 0. Attendance: 30,000.

In Milan: AC Milan (Italy) 3, Austria Salzburg (Austria) 0 (1-0). Scores: Giovanni Siroppa (30th), Marco Simone (59th and 64th). Attendance: 22,475.

In Athens: AEK Athens (Greece) 1, Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 2 (1-1). Scores: AEK - Tony Savelski (30th), Ajax - Jari Litmanen (33rd), Patrick Kluyvert (63rd). Attendance: 30,000.

In Gothenburg: IFK Gothenburg (Sweden) 2, Barcelona (Spain) 1 (0-1). Scores: IFK Gothenburg - Magnus Erlingmark (74th), Jesper Blomqvist (86th), Barcelona - Hristo Stoichkov (110th). Attendance: 32,500.

Aussies reach 325 for 7 vs Pakistan as Test begins

KARACHI, Pakistan (Reuters) - Australia reached a respectable 325 for seven at close after early setbacks in its first innings on the opening day of the first cricket Test against Pakistan yesterday.

Test debutant Michael Bevan (82) and Steve Waugh (73) steered the tourists into calmer waters.

Australia chose to bat first after Mark Taylor, captaining his side for the first time in a Test, won the toss but was reduced to 95 for four just before lunch.

Wasim Akram removed both the openers while leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed got the prized scalp of David Boon and then Mark Waugh to put Australia in trouble.

Taylor continued his dismal run on Pakistan's tour when he went without scoring. His opening partner Michael Slater batted subtly and scored 36 before falling to Akram.

Steve Waugh's sparkling 84-ball innings included 12 boundaries in a 110-minute stay at the crease before fast bowler Waqar Younis, who struggled in his opening spell, uprooted his off-stump.

But the star of the day was Bevan who made a highly confident start to his Test career as a replacement for former captain Allan Border in the middle-order.

After sharing a fifth wicket stand of 121 with Waugh, Bevan helped add a further 65 precious runs for the sixth wicket with wicketkeeper Ian Healy who went on to make an unbeaten 54.

The New South Wales batsman looked well set for a century on his debut but mistimed a drive off Mushtaq and was caught spectacularly at extra cover by Aamer Sohai. Bevan batted for 159 min-



NO WORRIES - Australian opener Michael Slater drives the ball on the first day of the first Test in Pakistan yesterday. (Reuters)

utes, faced 154 balls and hit 12 boundaries.

Mushtaq bowled well and finished with figures of three for 97, but Australia still scored at a healthy rate. They hit 40 boundaries in the day's play and scored at virtually a run-a-minute

throughout.

Australia left out its ace pacer Craig McDermott because of an injured toe and brought in Jo Angel to take his place, while Pakistan dropped out-of-form Asif Mujtaba and brought in Zahid Fazal in the middle order.

NBA grumbling over salary-cap issues putting season in jeopardy

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The gates are closed at baseball parks, the NHL season is in jeopardy, and salary-cap issues now cloud the NBA's future.

The prevailing mood of hard-line stands on salary caps may carry over into the NBA, players' union chief Charles Grantham said Tuesday, adding that a lockout would not surprise him.

There is no current labor contract in the NBA, and owners reportedly are considering a lockout if an agreement is not reached by Thanksgiving. They want to make the league's salary cap less flexible, a move opposed by the players.

Russ Granik, the NBA's deputy commissioner, told *The New York Times* that there is no immediate cause for alarm and that he has heard no talk of a lockout.

Grantham, however, said the mood in sports labor negotiations now seems to be pervasive.

"When you start looking at that kind of environment, in football, baseball, hockey and basketball, it doesn't surprise me that (NBA) owners would be floating the rumor of a potential lockout," Grantham, in Los Angeles for meetings, said by telephone.

"Our discussions with our player reps clearly made them aware of this possibility some time ago. ... I would not be surprised if a lockout were to occur, based on their (owners') behavior at this point."

The league, however, has stated that it is prema-

ture to talk about such an action, since there are six weeks remaining to work out an agreement before the start of the season.

The NBA's salary cap was instituted in 1983, when the league was in grave financial trouble. The union believes that with the league now making great profits, the salary cap restricts player movement and limits salaries.

Other issues in the dispute are the union's proposed elimination of the college draft and restricted free agency.

Grantham said the stalemate in baseball and hockey result from the owners believing salary caps are a "panacea for their ills."

"It's contagious, with three or four sports going through it at the same time with the salary cap," he said, claiming owners want salary caps to lock in future labor costs despite pro sports being in a period of domestic expansion and on the threshold of tapping into global markets.

He said that, if there is an NBA lockout, the players would have a good option, saying, "If they lock the players out, I don't think we would have much difficulty putting on alternative games."

The last agreement between the league and its players expired after the 1993-94 season, and there have been no negotiating sessions since July 11. The NBA Board of Governors meets October 5 in New York with the season scheduled for November 4.

Maccabi, Hap. TA in European action

JOEL GORDIN

THE two Israeli basketball clubs playing in Europe's top contest - the club championship - go into action tonight. They are Maccabi Tel Aviv, which plays away against Switzerland's Bellinzona and Hapoel Tel Aviv, at Ussishkin to Greece's PAOK Saloniki.

Both games are the first leg of the second-round qualifier to the best-of-16 semifinal.

The second legs will be held on October 6 and in each case the winner will advance to the best-of-16 round. The loser will be relegated to the lesser European Cup.

Maccabi had a bye in the first round, while Hapoel easily disposed of the Austrian champions Traiskirchen Mallersdorf 86-75 and 94-58.

Hapoel is not expected to match its formidable Greek opponent, current holder of the Korac Cup. The Greek side has been heavily reinforced by the Serbian ace Zoran Savic, who is no stranger to Israeli fans.

Savic starred for Barcelona two seasons ago and, in the Spanish club's important victory over Maccabi at Yad Elyahu in December, 1991, scored 24 points and took 10 rebounds. He caused then Maccabi coach Zvi Sherf to exclaim: "Savic broke us."

Ironically, Sherf today coaches Hapoel. At any rate, brilliant playmaker Ioannis (John) Korfas and Yugoslav Branslav Prelovic still play for POAK. The new American is the high scoring Lemon Lampl. More interest will be focused on Maccabi, which is reportedly worried about its Swiss opponents, even though Switzerland is no basketball stronghold.

Bellinzona has an excellent American, Norris Bell, and is apparently taking the game seriously. The team has twice sent scouts to Israel to observe Maccabi.

Maccabi will be playing without the injured Nadav Henefeld and Jeff Kent, who is not eligible to play in Europe. Much will depend on the play of sixth man Motti Daniel. If the rest of the squad has a repeat performance of Saturday night's game against Hapoel Gali Elyon the Israeli champions will be in real trouble.

With the club's finances stretched to the limit, failure to make Europe's top 16 could signal the collapse of the flagship of Israeli basketball.

The Ussishkin encounter will be shown live on Channel 5 from 8:30. The Swiss match will be screened on Channel 1 after the broadcast of the Maccabi Tel Aviv-Bremen soccer match.

Hapoel Jerusalem went down by 15 points 77-62 to the Athens Sports Club of Kauras, Lithuania on Tuesday night, in the first leg of the second round of the European Cup. The second leg will be held next week in Jerusalem.

Blackburn owner not discouraged

BLACKBURN (AP) - It was a bit of a reach, but Jack Walker was somehow able to keep an optimistic tone after his star-studded Blackburn Rovers were eliminated by a team of part-time players in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

"This setback will make us even more determined to qualify for Europe next season," said the Blackburn owner, who has shelled out some £27 million to build the most expensive lineup in England. "When we come back into Europe next time we can't be knocked out any sooner."

After losing the first leg 1-0 at home two weeks ago to Trelleborgs, Blackburn drew 2-2 with the Swedish club Tuesday night.

Tuesday's UEFA Cup matches:
First round, second leg:
AC Parma (Italy) 2, Vitesse Arnhem (Netherlands) 0 (Parma advances on 2-1 aggregate).

Aris Salonika (Greece) 4, Katowice (Poland) 4 (GKS 5-4 aggregate).
Athletic Bilbao (Spain) 3, Anorthosis (Cyprus) 0 (Bilbao 3-2 aggregate).
Deportivo La Coruna (Spain) 4, Rosenborg (Norway) 1 (Deportivo 4-2 aggregate).
Dinamo Bucharest (Romania) 3, Trabzonspor (Turkey) 3 (Trabzonspor 5-4 aggregate).

Dynamo Moscow (Russia) 0, RFS Sarag (Belgium) 1 (aggregate tied 4-4, Dynamo advances on away goals rule).
Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany) 2, Olympique (Slovenia) 0 (Frankfurt 3-1 aggregate).
FC Charleroi (Belgium) 1, Rapid Bucharest (Romania) 1 (Bucharest 3-2 aggregate).
FC Copenhagen (Denmark) 1, Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) 1 (Bratislava 2-1 aggregate).

FC Nantes (France) 3, Rotor Volgograd (Russia) 0 (Nantes 3-0 aggregate).
FC Tirol (Austria) 5, Dynamo Tiflis (Georgia) 1 (Tirol 5-2 aggregate).
Fenerbahce Istanbul (Turkey) 1, AS Cannes (France) 5 (Cannes 9-1 aggregate).
Gornik Zabrze (Poland) 1, Admira Wacker (Austria) 1 (Admira 6-5 aggregate).
Horned Budapest (Hungary) 1, Twente Enschede (Netherlands) 3 (Budapest 5-4 aggregate).

Juventus (Italy) 5, CSKA Sofia (Bulgaria) 1 (Juventus 7-4 aggregate).
Kaiserslautern (Germany) 4, Akranes (Iceland) 1 (Kaiserslautern 5-1 aggregate).
Lazio (Italy) 4, Dynamo Minsk (Belarus) 1 (Lazio 4-1 aggregate).
Lillestrom (Norway) 0, Girondins Bordeaux (France) 2 (Girondins 5-1 aggregate).
Maritimo (Portugal) 1, Aarau (Switzerland) 0 (Maritimo 1-0 aggregate).

MyPa (Finland) 1, Boavista Porto (Portugal) 1 (Boavista 3-2 aggregate).
Newcastle (England) 5, FC Avenir (Belgium) 2 (Newcastle 10-2 aggregate).
Odense BK (Denmark) 5, FC Linfield (Northern Ireland) 0 (Odense 6-1 aggregate).
Olympique Marseille (France) 3, Olympikos Pireus (Greece) 0 (Marseille 5-1 aggregate).

PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) 0, Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) 0 (Bayer 5-4 aggregate).
RFC Beerschot (Hungary) 1, Textitnik Kamyshtin (Russia) 0 (Kamyshtin 6-2 aggregate).

Sion (Switzerland) 2, Apollon (Cyprus) 2 (Sion 5-4 aggregate).
Skonto Riga (Latvia) 0, Napoli (Italy) 1 (Napoli 3-0 aggregate).

Slavia Prague (Czech Republic) 2, AIK Stockholm (Sweden) 2 (Stockholm advances on away goals rule).
Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 2, Real Madrid (Spain) 1 (aggregate score 2-2, Real Madrid advances on away goals).
Trelleborgs (Sweden) 2, Blackburn (England) 2 (Trelleborgs advances on 2-2 aggregate).

Mac. TA in showdown against Werder Bremen

DEREK FATTAL

MACCABI Tel Aviv embarks on a mission to extend Israeli soccer's giant killing reputation tonight in the return leg of the European Cup Winners' Cup, by playing David to the German Bundesliga's Goliath, Werder Bremen.

Maccabi surprisingly had the upper hand in the first leg two weeks ago at Ramat Gan, coming within a whisker of netting goals on at least several occasions.

The Germans, however, will be a much tougher proposition in front of their own fans, in their 45,000-capacity stadium. A crowd of around 15,000 is expected for the match, which is likely to be played in cold, rainy conditions.

German police are taking no chances, and will be marshaling a security force of over 650 officers for the Israelis' visit.

The task of Bremen coach Otto Rehhagel could be complicated if rumors that five first-team players are injured are true. Even so, there are able-bodied deputies ready to be drafted in their place.

The Bremen side is likely to be better organized for this leg, as the Tel Avivians are no longer an unknown quantity. The Germans' legendary stamina could also have a bearing on the result as they will not be stifled by the heat that prevailed in the first leg.

Maccabi coach Avraham Grant has

rightly pointed out that the Germans have to win to stay in the competition, while a score draw will suffice for the Israelis.

A lot will hinge on whether the Tel Avivians can soak up the pressure that Bremen will throw at them early on. If the defense can thwart the German strike force, then the Maccabi midfield might be able to create a surprise goal. Unfortunately, Israeli teams rarely show much composure under siege, and defense remains the weakest area in the local game.

One Maccabi player who may relish the task is goalkeeper of the former USSR team, Alexander Obarov, who had a scintillating debut against the German cup winners, could also be a key to Maccabi's fortunes.

The form of Victor Belkin, who had a scintillating debut against the German cup winners, could also be a key to Maccabi's fortunes.

If Maccabi goes through to the second round, it will be a landmark result for Israeli soccer against a team which last month won Germany's Super Cup, with a convincing 3-1 victory over Bayern Munich.

As Grant's men walk onto the turf tonight they may take heart that the Germans fell flat on their faces recently when they were knocked out of the DFB Cup by an amateur team.

Tonight's match kicks off at 9 p.m., Israel time, and will be broadcast live on Channel 1.

Bloom advances in national championships

HEATHER CHAFF

STILL smarting from his straight-set loss in the opening rubber of the Davis Cup tie against Belgium last week, defending champion Gilad Bloom made sure of victory in the Israeli Championships in Jerusalem yesterday.

Bloom beat Oded Teyg 6-3, 6-1. The new generation of Israel's Davis Cup squad, respective second and fourth seeds, Eyal Ran and Eyal Erlich also posted second-round wins.

Ran defeated Eyal Omid 6-1, 1-6, 7-6(7/2) while Erlich dumped Amir Hadad 6-2, 6-2.

Third seed Ofer Sela also reached the quarter-finals by pulling off a 6-3, 6-1 win over Koby Ziv.

Casualties among the other seeded players who had received

byes into the second round were Lior Mor, Oren Motevassel and Nir Weigreen.

In the women's competition, Ukrainian immigrant Neil Barkan, the top seed, defeated Merav Duek 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Play went largely by the book as second seed Tzipi Obziler cracked a 6-2, 6-0 win over Gilad Barzilai.

Third and fourth seeds Shiri Burstein and Hila Rosen, who each won a leg of the Vanessa Phillips Satellite recently in Haifa, also cruised into the quarter-finals.

Prize money in the men's tournament is NIS 5,000 with the women's winner pocketing

NIS 4,000.

In other news yesterday, Amos Mansdorf was beaten 6-2, 7-5 in the first round of the \$800,000 event in Basel by seventh-seeded Arnaud Boetsch of France.

Mansdorf was still feeling the effects of the cramp attack he suffered at the weekend's Davis Cup tie against Belgium.

The Israeli No. 1 moves on to the ATP event in Toulouse next week before returning to Israel for the Eisenberg Israel Open at Ramat Hasharon, starting October 10th.

Anna Smashnova is currently placed 47th in the latest WTA rankings published yesterday. The list is headed by Steffi Graf, ahead of Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez.

Jackson, Gunnell honored

LONDON (AP) - Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell were named Britain's male and female track and field athletes of the year yesterday by the British Athletics Writers' Association.

Gunnell, who won the women's award for the third consecutive year, completed a grand slam of major titles in the 400-meter hurdles in August when she added the European Championship crown to her world, Olympic and Commonwealth gold medals.

Jackson took the men's award for the second successive year after going unbeaten in 36 hurdles races.

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Prosecution: Dinitz guilty of 'systematic fraud'

JEWISH Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz's billing of the agency for personal expenses on some 180 occasions over a four-year period indicates that this was systematic fraud, not a mistake, the prosecution argued at the opening of his trial yesterday.

Dinitz, now on leave from the agency, is being charged with aggravated fraud and breach of trust for allegedly racking up \$22,000 worth of personal expenses on credit-card bills which were paid by the agency. One was an agency American Express card, while the other was Dinitz's personal Sims clothing store credit card - whose bills were sent to the agency, without its consent, lead prosecutor Shimon Dolan charged.

"This trial centers on the accused's intent," Dolan told Jerusalem District Court, noting, for example, that Dinitz had continued sending his Sims bills to the agency through

the end of 1992, even though in May of that year, he had issued an order that no more personal outlays should be made on agency credit cards.

Dolan also gave the example of a case in which Dinitz had submitted hotel bills in both New York and Los Angeles for the same dates.

In his opening statement, Dolan said that while other senior agency officials reported their personal expenses and reimbursed the agency for them, Dinitz either failed to file reports or claimed that all his expenses were job-related.

The first witness, Nadav Shukrun - who dealt with expense reimbursement for the agency from December 1990 to July 1994 - confirmed that when he started the job, he was told by his superior that Dinitz "was not in the habit of filing reports," and that he should be reimbursed according to Shukrun's best judgment.

EVELYN GORDON

"We don't deal with the chairman," Shukrun said he was told. According to his predecessor, other agency card-holders did file reports, Shukrun said.

He was also originally told that when dealing with Dinitz's American Express bill, he should just look at the bottom line, and not worry about the various items, Shukrun added.

Feeling this was improper, Shukrun did check the line items, he said, and asked Dinitz's office for clarifications on several items. However, he never received a response, and was afraid he would endanger his job if he pressed for an answer, he said.

Dolan had said earlier that according to the defense, the entire business was the agency's fault, for not deducting Dinitz's private expenses

from his salary. If this were true, Dolan said, surely Dinitz's office should at this point have told Shukrun that there were private expenses, and they should be deducted from his salary.

Furthermore, he said, even if there were deficiencies in the agency's procedure, this did not excuse Dinitz's behavior.

With regard to the Sims card, Shukrun said he first heard of Sims in December 1992. If he had ever seen the name listed on a bill, he said, he certainly did not know it was a credit card - he thought it represented a purchase made by the agency office in New York (which received the bills).

Judge Shalom Brenner questioned the prosecution sharply about the

Sims card, asking why the agency would ever have paid a bill for a credit card it had not issued.

"[New York] tells Jerusalem that they paid Sims, and no one asks a question?" he demanded.

"Sims was swallowed up in the reports," Dolan replied, adding that the Jerusalem unit dealt with about 1,000 such reports a year. "There was no special remark accompanying it."

Dolan also seemed to be preparing the court for the possibility of hostile witnesses, saying that some of Dinitz's former underlings might not find it easy to testify against him - especially when their own behavior might be questionable.

Dinitz's lawyer, Uri Wagman, opened the cross-questioning by casting doubt on Shukrun's credibility. He showed two tables prepared by Shukrun, one in 1992 and one in

1993. The first listed Dinitz's expenses via American Express for three 1991 trips - to Italy, the US, and Poland - at \$3,048, \$4,573, and \$1,843 respectively. The second listed the credit card expenses for the same trips at \$253.60, \$65.22, and zero, respectively.

Shukrun tried to explain that he didn't have breakdowns for the trips when he prepared the first report, and therefore, for instance, he attributed all of the April American Express bill to the April 21-24 Italy trip. However, Wagman said this was impossible, since there was also another April trip to Europe, for which Shukrun had also listed American Express outlays.

Even if Shukrun were dividing the April bill arbitrarily between the two trips, commented Brenner, it seems strange that he attributed the smaller sum to the longer, 10-day trip.

Cabinet okays Haiti force

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE cabinet yesterday approved dispatching a 30-member volunteer police contingent to Haiti as part of an international observer force. The group's departure now awaits approval from the High Court of Justice.

The High Court ruling may come as soon as today. By agreeing to hear the case, it delayed the original departure of the force that was set for last Sunday.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal openly criticized the High Court for agreeing to hear the petition of Kach members, who have charged that the government has no right to send policemen outside of Israel. Part of the legal challenge to the dispatching of police is that police movements are more restricted than those of the military.

Speaking to reporters after the cabinet meeting, Shahal said: "It is a question of principle, whether the Israel Police is permitted to participate in fulfilling international commitments and whether Israeli policemen are allowed to participate in international missions. The justices erred in assuming that the Israeli police force would operate in Haiti by virtue of an Israel Police order. According to this logic, Israeli police are not authorized to operate in Judea and Samaria as well, since Israeli law does not apply in those areas, and Israel would not be able to fulfill international commitments."

In a briefing for reporters, an official in the Prime Minister's Office insisted that Israel's right to dispatch personnel abroad is in keeping with basic law on government functions. This past July the IDF sent a medical team to Zaire on a humanitarian mission to treat Rwandan refugees.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to send the police contingent in response to a personal request by President Bill Clinton to join an international force to restore civilian order in Haiti.

Deri trial judges visit Nebi Samwil

THE trial of former interior minister Aryeh Deri resumed in Jerusalem District Court yesterday.

After hearing testimony from former Housing Ministry director-general Amos Unger, the judges went on a tour of Nebi Samwil to examine for themselves the ground which the Moreh Beitanyan sold to haredi families for a housing project.

The land, however, was not zoned for housing, and Deri - who was Interior Ministry director-general at the time - is charged with using his influence to obtain alternative land for the families, to protect the company from lawsuits.

In his testimony, Unger said that according to written directives from the Housing Ministry, landowners have the right to develop their property themselves, should they so choose. Thus, he said, the ministry could not prevent the haredi non-profit corporation which owned the land from developing it by itself, and not through the ministry's Arim company.

Judges Ya'acov Zemach, Mousa Arad, and Miriam Naor then began their tour of Nebi Samwil by taking in the view from the roof of the mosque built at the traditional site of the tomb of Samuel the Prophet, just northwest of Jerusalem. They were shown the lands of both the haredi and secular non-profit groups which were to build there.

They then descended to examine the ground itself, to see the relationship of the two areas and to see the land the haredi group was given in exchange for its original site.

When the trial resumed, the prosecution maintained that because of the magnificent view, the land the haredi group was given in exchange was far more valuable than its original land.

The trial continues today. (lim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jacobson sentenced to caring for sick kids

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday ruled that Zvi Jacobson, a former senior aide to Shas's Aryeh Deri when he was interior minister, should serve his sentence of six months of community service for bribery helping in the care of sick children.

He will be working 45 hours a week for the Ezer M'Zion organization, beginning October 16.

Jacobson was convicted and sentenced during the summer for bribing an officer in the IDF Conscript Office, in return for draft exemption certificates for yeshiva students. (lim)

Gary Kasparov to visit next week

World chess champion Gary Kasparov is to visit Tel Aviv next week and on Monday will play simultaneously against Mayor Ronni Milo, MK Michael Eitan, former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i, and others, in an exhibition organized by the Tel Aviv Development Foundation.

Kasparov will also participate in the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the International Chess Academy, which the foundation is helping to build in Ramat Aviv.

The academy building will contain playing and training rooms, a chess library, and a communications room. (lim)

Four years for Beersheba rapist

Ya'acov Binyamin, 47, of Beersheba, was sentenced to four years' imprisonment and two years probation in Beersheba District Court yesterday for raping a woman he was friendly with. The rape occurred two years ago.

Binyamin had at first claimed that the woman had slept with him willingly, but then said that her behavior had led him to rape her.

Judge Zvi Segal rejected his version of the incident. (lim)

Sinking of destroyer Eilat remembered

Navy commander Maj.-Gen. Ami Ayalon was the main speaker at yesterday's Haifa military cemetery memorial service marking 27 years since the sinking of the destroyer Eilat by Egyptian fire. The ship went down on October 21, 1967, and 47 officers and sailors lost their lives.

Bereaved family members, many of those rescued from the sinking ship, and present and former senior navy officers - including Lt.-Col. (res.) Yitzhak Shoshan, Eilat's captain - participated in the ceremony. (lim)

Chilean firefighters visiting

A 15-member group of Jewish volunteer firefighters from Chile arrived here Monday for a two-week visit. For the last 40 years, the Chilean Jewish community has operated a fire and rescue station, called Bomba Yisrael, in the capital of Santiago.

The group was ceremonially welcomed by Fire Commissioner Shlomo Cohen, and will tour the country as the guest of local authorities and fire departments. (lim)

Jerusalem, Cairo zoos to cooperate

The Tish Family Jerusalem Biblical Zoo will cooperate with its counterpart in Cairo, under an agreement signed yesterday in Jerusalem.

The two zoos will cooperate in various projects, such as raising endangered species in the region, exchange of zoological information, animal exchanges, and education.

Visiting Deputy Agriculture Minister Mohammed Habashi Ali and Yoram Balizovski, general manager of the Jerusalem zoo, signed the agreement.

Search for hit-and-run driver

RAINE MARCUS

TEL AVIV police have launched a manhunt for the driver who killed a pedestrian on Tuesday evening in a hit-and-run accident near Azor.

Ariel Babishvili, 24, of Jaffa, was walking with his wife on the shoulder of the road when a car driving at high speed hit him.

Police later asked for public assistance in tracing the culprit.

Yesterday, an anonymous caller gave police details on the car involved, its location, and owner.

The car was found abandoned in an orange grove near Beit Dagan. It showed signs of having been involved in an accident - its right headlight was smashed. The owner's identity card was found in the car.

As a result, a warrant was issued for the man, a 29-year-old former Beersheba resident who had been living in Beit Dagan.

The man is suspected of involvement in another traffic accident on Tuesday in Rishon LeZion.



Young transplant recipients and their families participate yesterday in a day of sports and entertainment at the Ramat Gan National Park. The event was sponsored by the Association of Heart and Liver Transplant Recipients to publicize the need for more organ donations. (Yisrael Hadrati)

'Davar Aher' to appear in 'Yediot'

'Davar' workers to submit bid for paper next week

Davar's satirical weekend supplement, *Davar Aher*, will begin appearing as of next Friday in *Yediot Aharonot*, which hired the supplement's staff en bloc. *Davar Aher* will continue to be published under its name, and will still appear in *Davar* every Friday.

Davar Aher's move to *Yediot* followed prolonged negotiations between the larger newspaper's management and *Davar Aher's* staff which began long before the political upheaval which brought Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon to power.

The move has nothing to do with *Davar's* financial predicament and with Ramon's decision to close the newspaper down, *Davar Aher* staff member Yair Garbus said yesterday.

Davar Aher has gained a reputation over the past years for fearless, unrestrained satire on political, social

and religious issues, including its publishers *Davar* and the Histadrut.

Yediot Aharonot, which will be paying the staff's wages, will thus ensure that *Davar Aher* is published regularly every Friday. Recently the supplement has been failing to appear some Fridays, due to *Davar's* inability to pay its workers' wages.

Yediot reserves the right to publish the supplement in a smaller format than the present four pages, according to space requirements, sources said.

Davar Aher's staff consists of six salaried journalists, all of whom will become *Yediot Aharonot* employees except veteran *Davar* journalist Tzvi Eizenberg.

Meanwhile, the *Davar* journalists' action committee intends to submit its bid to purchase the newspaper next

Wednesday, four weeks before the October 31 deadline issued by Ramon, who decided to close *Davar* down unless a purchaser for it is found.

The committee's bid consists of taking over the ownership and management of *Davar*, together with a group of investors, headed by Jewish American tycoon Leon Charney and Harold Barry, who will hold 49% of *Davar's* shares, while the journalists hold 51%.

At the same time, the committee is working out the implications of the work agreements signed over the years at *Davar*, with the intention of keeping all the pension and severance fee agreements and preserving the workers' rights, if and when the newspaper's ownership is transferred to the partnership between the workers and the investors.

Male prostitute serving time gets second life term

RAINE MARCUS

A MALE prostitute from Jerusalem serving a life sentence for murder was imprisoned for an additional life term, to be served concurrently, by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Judges Edmond Levy, Devora Berliner, and Nissim Yeshiyan sentenced Sofian Masluhi, 20, for the murder of Ra'anana jeweler Menashe Atar, who was shot by four masked assailants as he was leaving his home four years ago. The gunman stole his bag of jewelry and gold, before fleeing in his car. Atar died in hospital from his wounds a month after the incident.

In return for informing on his accomplices in the killing, the prosecution and defense reached an agreement whereby he would receive a life sentence to run concurrently with that he is serving for murdering a fellow homosexual who burned to death when his Tel Aviv apartment was torched.

Masluhi tried to make a deal with the district attorney by informing on alleged suspects in another unsolved murder, but did not win immunity. During a recent murder trial, Masluhi acted as a prosecution witness against two defendants, but his information was ruled unreliable and the case was thrown out of court.

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